

MILFORD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The Infant and Toddler Times

JUDY LOBDELL, EDITOR

April 2021

Dates to Remember

April

2nd. Good Friday
Center closed

5th-9th. Spring Break
Center closed

10th-16th. Celebrate the
50th Anniversary of the
NAEYC Week of the
Young Child.

<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/browse-by-topic>

22nd. Celebrate
Earth Day.



The Children's Library is
now open for business.
Please call 203-783-3312
or email

mpclchildren@milfordct.gov

The Milford Family
Resource Center
@Fannie Beach
Community Center
Milford, CT 06460
(203) 783-3626
mfrf@milforded.org

Milford Family Resource
Center Staff:
Program Coordinator:
Liz Gaffney
Parent Educators:
Kathy Aspinwall
Judy Lobdell
Anne Mundy

Tributes for Peggy Kelly

"This is such a bittersweet moment. Peggy has been one of my closest friends and colleagues over these past 25 years. The time, talent and treasure that Peggy has brought to this community can not be measured. She has enriched the lives of so many families and children with her knowledge, compassion and passion for ensuring that our youngest citizens are well prepared to enter the kindergarten doors. Peggy has also lifted the spirits of so many struggling families with her tireless efforts to make sure that those families can make a rent payment, pay a utility bill or deal with another unexpected bill when they fall behind. Peggy never took NO for an answer. Most of her colleagues have never said NO to Peggy. I could never say NO to Peggy. Every so often, an individual comes along in life who changes the face of a community. Peggy Kelly has done exactly that. Peggy, you have served well! Now go and enjoy and relax with your family and friends. And to coin a phrase: Thanks for the Memories!" - Gary Johnson

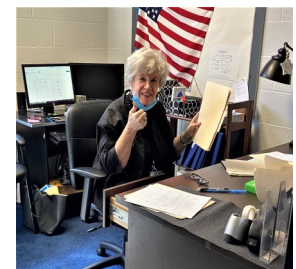
"There are certain people who just know how to bring out the best in everyone and Peggy does this every single day. I have had the privilege of working alongside Peggy for my entire career and she has always been my example of service to the community and empowering families to achieve their goals. She accomplished this through endless hard work and much love, laughter and fun. Thank you Peg for being such an inspiration, a friend, and quite honestly a force of nature! I wish you lots of wonderful new adventures and happy moments with your family and friends!" ~Lesley Darling

I've thought about your request for a day now and no way can someone share brief comments about Peggy....a powerful reminder of the meaning of *dynamic*: *motivating, productive, effective, energizing and energetic, vigorous, charismatic, magnetic*. All of this wrapped up into one loyal, sincere, giving and devoted woman. How lucky was Milford to have Peggy continuously and genuinely looking out for so many? We were blessed!
Diane Candido

To our beloved Margaret "Peggy" Elaina Theresa McDougal Kelly, we are so grateful for you, for all of your gifts and contributions to Milford's children, families, and entire community. May you have a joy-filled well-earned retirement.
My love and admiration always, Carole Swift

Your contribution to the well being of Milford residents, especially our precious children, has been extraordinary. I miss seeing you walk the school halls greeting the children as if they were your own. They all know Mrs. Kelly! My granddaughter has benefited immensely from her early learning experience at playgroup. Your selfless gift of time and your passion for helping those in need will never be forgotten. Thank you and best wishes on your retirement!
Fondly, Margie Ruggeri

(continued on page 5)



Last Day, signing off!



Weather permitting Our Outdoor Playgroups Continue



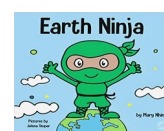
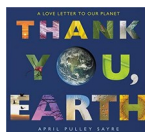
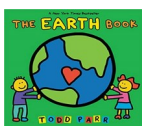
Celebrating Earth Day with young children

Put together a simple seed jar that gives children a wonderful view of how a seed sprouts. The link below will take you to the website that has directions for this activity and others.



Here are some of many great reads to check out about Earth Day for young children.

The EARTH Book by Todd Parr
Thank You, Earth: A Love Letter to Our Planet by April Pulley Sayre
Earth Ninja: A Children's Book About Recycling, Reducing, and Reusing by Mary Nhin



<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/seed-jar-science-experiment-kids/>

Fostering Emotional Literacy in Young Children: Labeling Emotions

The ability to label emotions is a developmental skill that is not present at birth—it must be learned. And just as there is wide variation in the point at which children start to demonstrate appropriate use of books, begin writing, and recognize letters, some children's ability to identify, understand, and label their emotions develops at a slower rate than others.

Three variables can underlie a child's growing ability to label emotions:

- (1) the child's temperament and developmental status
- (2) parental socialization and environmental support, and
- (3) the teacher and child care providers' emphasis on emotional literacy. Indeed, differences in the way adults talk to and teach children about feelings and problem solving are related to children's abilities to label emotions.

(From <https://www.hhs.gov/>)

Points to Remember

- Children who have a strong foundation in emotional literacy are healthier, have more friends, are less impulsive, remain more focused, and demonstrate greater academic achievement.
- The development of feeling words is considered to be of critical importance in a child's emotional development because it makes it possible for children to better understand their emotional experiences.
- The ability to name feelings allows children to discuss and reflect with others about their personal experiences of the world.
- The larger a child's emotional vocabulary, the finer discriminations he or she can make between feelings and the better he or she can communicate with others about his or her emotions and possible problems.
- While several underlying processes contribute to a child's ability to understand and regulate his emotions, parents and caregivers can make a meaningful difference by emphasizing emotions throughout daily routines.

Things to Do

- Label your own feelings throughout the day in front of children.
- Observe children and label their feelings as they experience them.
- Talk about feelings displayed by characters in children's books, on television, or in videos.
- Allow children to feel a range of emotions, but teach them healthy ways to express them.
- Play games and sing songs involving feelings, such as "If you're happy and you know it."
- Reinforce children's efforts to express their feelings in healthy ways.

This material was developed by the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning with federal funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families



April, 2021



MILFORD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER 783-3626
MFRCC@MILFORD.ORG

Playgroup News

Milford Family Resource Center

Spring is here! It is exciting to see the pink and yellow buds on trees blowing in the wind.

Concepts for children to learn in the spring:

Spring is a season.

It rains in the spring.

Light colors are seen during the spring.

Caterpillars and butterflies are insects seen in the spring.

Chicks, lambs, and birds are also springtime animals.

Gardens are often planted in the spring.



Recommended Activities:

Nature Walk—Walk around your neighborhood, looking for signs of spring. Robins and other birds are often early signs of spring.



- April 22nd is Earth Day. Celebrate by taking a trip to your favorite beach or park and clean up any trash you find. Your child should be provided with a paper bag to collect litter on the walk. Don't forget to wear gloves!
- April is National Poetry Month...so read some poetry to your child. Some good authors are Jack Prelutsky, Shel Silverstein and of course Dr. Seuss.

My Kite

Sung to: "The Farmer in the Dell"

My kite is up so high,
My kite is up so high,
Oh my -- just watch it fly
My kite is up so high.

My kite is falling down,
My kite is falling down,
Oh no -- it's down so low
My kite is falling down.

The wind has caught my kite,
The wind has caught my kite,
What fun -- I'm on the run
The wind has caught my kite.

SONG FOR THE MONTH



Recommended Readings

Make Way for Duckling, By: Robert McCloskey

The Runaway Bunny, By: Margaret Wise Brown

The Very Hungry Caterpillar, By: Eric Carle

Rain Drop Splash, By: Alvin Tresselt

Max and Maggie in Spring, By: Janet Craig

Splash, Splash, Spring, By: Jan Carr



The Deadline to File Your Taxes Has Been Extended To May 17th! Use MyFreeTaxes to File Your Taxes Online for FREE!

MyFreeTaxes helps people file their taxes for free while getting the assistance they need. United Way provides MyFreeTaxes in partnership with the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

Visit www.myfreetaxes.com today to get started!

Since 2009, MyFreeTaxes has helped more than 1.3 million taxpayers claim every credit and deduction they deserve. These credits, including the [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) and [Credit Tax Credit](#), maximize filers' refunds and provide important opportunities for individuals and families to build financial stability.

The MyFreeTaxes filing software is powered by TaxSlayer, which uses the highest industry standards to safeguard your information.

Need Help from an IRS-Certified Specialist?

Dial 866-698-9435 to get help from an IRS-certified call specialist via the MyFreeTaxes Helpline. The Helpline is open from 10 am-10 pm, seven days a week.

(Tributes continued from page 1) **Quotes from families and friends...**

Congrats, Peggy! Thank you for the Family Resource Center and Ready to Learn programs. My grandchildren were and are fortunate to reap the benefits of both. Enjoy a happy, healthy retirement! Kathy McDonald

Congrats Peggy! Thank you for all you have done for Milford's kiddos and their families. Here's to a well-deserved break! Suzanne Harrison Thomas

Congratulations Peggy!! To the BEST of the best- a true champion for all children. Thank you for all you have done for the children and families in Milford! Joan Cagginello

I have not forgotten your smile and your kindness since my boys were at Milford Family Resource! You deserve a wonderful retirement! Enjoy! Beth A Lazar

What a gift she has been in the lives of so many families! Congratulations! Marisol Ramos Cummings

A gem of a person always willing to help, especially when it comes to those in need and our kids!! Congratulations on your retirement, you will be missed! Ray Vitali

Peggy is an amazing woman with a wonderful heart. I found myself homeless years ago with my little boy. She helped me find resources, helped me get set up in a hotel for a week and then gave my son \$20 dollars to buy pizza for dinner and he will never forget her for that and neither will I. It was the boost we needed to start getting back on our feet. Thank you Peggy and Congratulations on your well deserved retirement! Pamela

A true leader, an asset to the Milford community, and most of all a true trail blazer for all our children. Thank you Peggy. Kevin McGrath

Congratulations Peggy Kelly! Enjoy your retirement! You will be greatly missed. Michelle D'Aiuto

