

MILFORD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The Infant and Toddler Times

JUDY LOBDELL, EDITOR

June 2021

Dates to Remember

June

11th. Last day of school

14th. Flag Day



20th. Father's Day
Summer Solstice



**The Milford Family
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How to Introduce Toddlers and Babies to Books

The first—and best—tip for sharing books with young children is to have fun together! If children are engaged and enjoying themselves, they are learning. When children have positive interactions with books, they are developing good feelings about reading, which will motivate them to continue seeking out books and other literacy materials as they grow.

Here are some other ideas for nurturing early literacy skills in your baby or toddler:

A Few Minutes at a Time is OK. Don't Worry if You Don't Finish the Story.

Young children can only sit for a few minutes for a story, but as they grow, they will be able to sit longer. Let your child decide how much (or how little) time you spend reading. And you don't need to read every page. You may find that your child has a favorite page or even a favorite picture. She may want to linger there for a while, and then switch books or activities. Babies may just want to mouth the book! That's okay. When you let your child explore books in the ways that interest her, the reading experience will be more meaningful.

Talk or Sing About the Pictures

You do not have to read the words to tell a story. Try "reading" the pictures in a book for your child sometime. When your child is old enough, ask him to read the pictures to you!

Let Children Turn the Pages

Babies cannot yet turn pages on their own, but an 18-month-old will want to give it a try, and a 3-year-old can certainly do it alone. Remember, it's OK to skip pages!

Show Children the Cover Page

Explain what the story is about. If you have an older toddler, ask them to guess what the story might be about.

Show Children the Words

Run your finger along the words as you read them, from left to right.

Make the Story Come Alive

Create voices for the story characters and use your body to tell the story.

Make It Personal

Talk about your own family, pets, or community when you are reading about others in a story.

Ask Questions About the Story, and Let Children Ask Questions Too!

Use the story to have a back-and-forth conversation with your child. Talk about familiar activities and objects you see in the illustrations or read about in the story.

Let Children Tell The Story

Children as young as 3 years old can memorize a story, and many children love to be creative through storytelling.

Create Books Together

Make photo books of family members. Cut pictures out of magazines or catalogs to make word books. Make a color book by having fun with crayons, markers, and paints. As your child gets older, have him or her dictate a story to you and then draw pictures to go with the words.

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Make Books a Part of Your Daily Routine

The more that books are woven into children's everyday lives, the more likely they will be to see reading as a pleasure and a gift.

- **At Meal Times** Sing or read a story during a moment of quiet nursing or to gather the kids around the noisy breakfast table.
 - **In the Car or on the Bus** Keep a few books in the car or in your diaper bag to keep your little ones quiet and busy.
 - **At Child Care Drop Off** Calm a crying child at good-bye time with a favorite story or lullaby. Leave a photo book with pictures of loved family members at child care so your child can flip through it when she is missing you.
 - **At the Doctor's Office** Read or tell a soothing story to your little one in the waiting room and sing or talk through the scary parts of the visit. Before the visit, read books about going to the doctor so your child knows what to expect.
 - **At the Grocery Store** Put a few board books in the shopping cart or tie a cloth book to the shopping cart so you're not cleaning up books from the floor as you go!
 - **At Nap Time** Familiar routines always help babies calm down. Use books and stories to quietly ease your baby to sleep.
 - **At Day's End** You are exhausted, the baby is fussy. Lie down on the floor surrounded by books. Play a book on tape for your baby. Sing a song together while you all try to relax a bit.
 - **At Bath Time** Plastic bath time books are great fun and may help a fussy baby enjoy the tub a little more.
- At Bed Time** Soothing books and stories can work magic with babies who fight sleep!

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/304-how-to-introduce-toddlers-and-babies-to-books>



Milford Public Library News

BEGINNING JUNE 1, WE WILL BE RETURNING TO PRE-PANDEMIC SERVICE HOURS.

CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS.

<https://www.ci.milford.ct.us/milford-public-library/pages/childrens-services-department>

COVID protocols in place.

Hours subject to change. Please call the Children's Department at 203-783-3312 with any questions.

Summer Reading 2021



Registration begins June 28

in-person or on [READsquared](#), our online reading tracker



STRONG FAMILIES CREATE STRONG MINDS



Event 1

Alicia Farrell- Back to the Future: Getting Through the COVID Home Stretch Together

Tune in to learn some practical skills to support your kids and learn something about yourself!

May 13, 2021 | 6:30PM-8:00pm

Event 2

Ask Lisa- The Psychology of Parenting

Decode the psychology of parenting by tackling your questions about the challenges that come with raising children and teenagers!

June 3, 2021 | 7:00PM-8:00pm

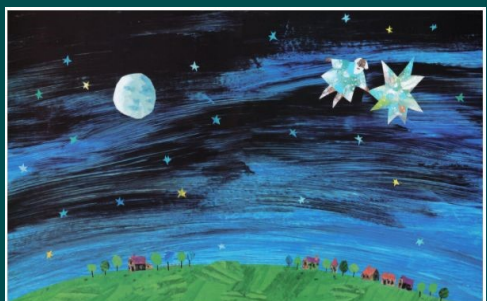
Coming Soon!

Jennifer Ju- Mindfulness and Other Wellness Strategies to Start Strong

Join us as we learn effective skills to practice mindful self-care, healthy decision-making & forming meaningful connections with others.

September 23, 2021 | 6:30PM-7:30pm

Brought to you by Milford Health Department and Milford Department of Human Services. For questions please contact Lesley Darling 203-783-3383 or LDarling@milfordct.gov



ERIC CARLE

June 25, 1929 - May 23, 2021

In the light of the moon,
holding on to a good star,
a painter of rainbows
is now traveling across the night sky.

*"My father used to take me for walks in the woods.
He would peel back the bark of a tree and show me
the creatures who lived there. I have very fond
memories of these special times with my father and
in a way I honor him with my books and my
interest in animals and insects."*



SUMMER DAYS 2021



We will be holding our summer program, open to all Milford residents,
on the playground here at Fannie Beach from July 5th- August 6th,
and will meet Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:30 - 10:30.

You can email us to enroll for one of the three days, and if you are new to our program
please provide your names, address, phone number and preferred email address, as well
as the names of anyone attending with ages and DOB of child(ren).

For further information you may contact us by email at mfrc@milforded.org

We look forward seeing you this summer!



Papa & Gigi's Day Off
By Mary & Richard Koziel
Illustrated by Leigh Hauer

"This book perfectly captures the love that
grandparents have for their grandchildren!"
Devoted grandparents Papa and Gigi awake one
morning to some news: they have a rare day off
from babysitting their grandchildren.

Though there's nothing they love more than
being with their grandkids, they decide to take
advantage of the free time and spend the day
together doing all the things they seldom have
time for otherwise, such as cooking a big yummy
breakfast, getting their hair styled,
and enjoying a picnic and a long drive.

Visit their website papaandgigisadventures.com
for more information.

Local authors of the new book,
Papa & Gigi's Day Off

DUCKS ON THE GREEN

**ADOPT
YOUR
DUCKS
ONLINE!**



JUNE 1 - 15

**LITTLE QUACKER \$25
FRIENDS & FAMILY
DUCK**

**BIG QUACKER \$50
BUSINESS/
ORGANIZATION**



ON THE MILFORD GREEN!

