

MILFORD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The Infant and Toddler Times

JUDY LOBDELL, EDITOR

March 2022

Dates to Remember March

2nd. Celebrate Read Across America Day

Visit their website for further information
<https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/read-across-america>



9th. School closed.
12th St. Patrick's Day Parade 1:00pm
13th DST begins—turn clocks ahead!
17th. Saint Patrick's Day



20th. First day of Spring



The Milford Family Resource Center @Pumpkin Delight School
24 Art Street and
Calf Pen Meadow School
395 Welch's Point Rd.
Milford, CT 0640
(203)783-3626

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

Fun and Easy Language Boosters for Young Kids*

At home and at school.

Excerpted from Brookes Publishing Blog (see page 2)

Role play. Kids love taking on new and different roles—and it's the perfect opportunity to help them expand their language skills. As you engage in everyday activities in the classroom, join them in pretending to be favorite characters from storybooks or TV shows. Encourage children to express the distinct perspectives of their characters; for example, Cookie Monster might want to eat everything in sight, and Goldilocks might forget her manners and need to be reminded.

EARLY IN LIFE,
families are the most important communication partners for their children.



BROOKES

From Building Powerful Communication & Engagement, by Lesley B. Clineang, Julie Feuerstein, & Gay Lloyd Pinder

Look at the world through new lenses. Let your young learners see the world through “rose-colored glasses”—literally! Using gels or cellophane in different colors, cover a simple cardboard frame, a magnifying glass, a cardboard tube, or binoculars. Ask the children to look through and describe the new colorful world they see, or tell a creative story about why the world has become pink, blue, or green.

Pretend to be animals. Animals easily capture the imaginations of children. Read your young learners books that invite you to pretend to be animals or to imitate their movements. As you try out a turtle's crawl or a lion's strut together, get kids talking about what they're doing and feeling. If your classroom has a computer, you can look up more information on the children's favorite animals and how they behave and communicate.

Take a magic carpet ride. Sit with a child or a small group of children on a rug or couch and pretend you're flying off on a magical adventure! Ask them to share their ideas on where you might visit, and begin a story about your adventure that each child can contribute to. Describe the amazing sights you see and ask kids questions that invite their participation: “Look, there's a circus! Can you see the elephants? What are they doing?”

Eat—and talk about—foods from around the world. Let children handle, smell, and taste diverse foods with different flavors and textures, such as coconut, kiwi, curry, passion fruit, chutney, plantains, ackee, chili, papaya, dulce de leche, and tomatillos. (Be sure to check with parents about food allergies first.) Chat with the children about the colors, tastes, and textures, as well as where the foods come from and how they are harvested or prepared.

Experiment with balance. Kids take pride in building super-tall towers and long bridges with blocks. Expand on their block play by asking children what happens when they put something heavy on the very top of a tower or on one end of a bridge or seesaw. What happens when they move a block toward the center or orient it a different way? Find images of real bridges, seesaws, scales, and towers, and talk about what makes them balanced or “tippy.”

Make a personal museum. Do your children love collecting things? Many kids find it fun to collect little treasures like rocks, shells, seed pods, toy dinosaurs, buttons, postcards, stamps, or pictures related to a theme. Show children how to arrange their collections in pretty displays using shoe boxes, small jars, or egg cartons. Help children label their treasures (a great way to practice letter writing and recognition) and/or encourage them to give “tours” of their personal museum to visitors.

(continued on page 2)

TALKING SINGING READING WRITING PLAYING

Practice the ABC song, rhymes, and counting. Songs about letters and numbers are fun and easy to practice during spare moments during the day, such as cleaning up, walking to the playground, and waiting for parents to arrive. Remind parents that they can work these songs into their everyday routines, too: while waiting for a bus, bathing or dressing, or preparing for sleep after the last bedtime story. Parents can make a game of it—"Let's see how many times we can sing the ABC song before the subway comes!"

Make maps. Help your young learners create colorful maps of real and imaginary places. Start by exploring an area or talking with them about an imaginary land. What are the important places or landmarks? Where are they in relation to each other? Which roads or paths go from one place to another? Ask children to represent their ideas visually by drawing a map freehand, cutting out pictures and arranging them on a large piece of paper and drawing roads to connect them, or using different colors and shapes to represent landmarks and creating a key that identifies what's what.

Turn junk into treasure. Make a classroom "recycling center" with your learners. Start by collecting things such as bottle tops, small boxes, buttons, foil, cardboard tubes, Styrofoam trays, egg cartons, yogurt containers, parts to broken toys and gadgets, and other beautiful or potentially useful "junk." As you help the child sort the junk into bins, talk about what things go together. Brainstorm ways to use some of the items to create sculptures, inventions, or play worlds such as a city or a magic garden.

Discuss and try different artistic techniques. Read children beautiful picture books illustrated by collagists such as Ezra Jack Keats, Leo Lionni, and Eric Carle or by quilters such as Faith Ringgold. Talk about the techniques the artists used. Then have child make their own books using materials such as watercolors, paste, paper, cloth scraps, ribbon, foil, string, stamps, greeting cards, and box tops. When they're done, they can "read" their books to you or each other.

* <https://blog.brookespublishing.com/>



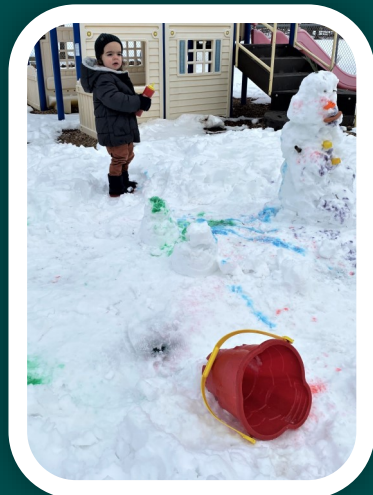
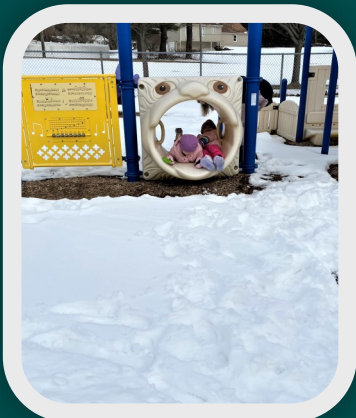
Milford Public Schools Kindergarten Registration Portal to open on Feb 22nd. This is for students entering Kindergarten in the Fall of 2022.

Please visit <https://5il.co/151rm> for further details.

For further information about preparing your child for kindergarten, you can check out the following link.
<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/kindergarten-here-we-come>



Outdoor Winter Playgroups (weather permitting)



Snow Fun



And...



Sun Fun
At 47 degrees





Learn through play with sparkler

Sparkler sparks healthy early development for children (0-5) and families in Connecticut. Check in on your child's development and get a library of 1000+ play activities just right for your child's age. Get regular coaching and advice. Sparkler is in English and Spanish, for iOS or Android.

How to Get Started with Sparkler:

1. **Download Sparkler** from the [Google Play Store](#) or the [Apple App Store](#). Or scan this QR Code with your mobile device to go straight to the right place for downloading.

2. Open app and tap **Create a New Account**.



3. Enter **Your Sparkler Access Code** (formerly "provider key") to connect with your program/provider.

MilfordFRC

4. **Set Up** (enter your email, password)

5. **Create Account** (name is required; address, ZIP, and mobile optional)

6. **Add a Child** (name, pronoun, birthday, prematurity if under 2 are required; photo optional). If you don't see the name of your program here, you might not have entered your code in Step 1; enter it here under Cohort/Provider Key.

7. **Profile Questions** (optional)

8. Review **Sponsoring Partners** and **Privacy**



sparkler


Connecticut Office
of Early Childhood

2-1-1

Child Development


Ages & Stages
Questionnaires

Milford School Readiness Grant Request for Proposals

Legal Notice

2022

The Milford School Readiness Council is soliciting proposals for the development and/ or operation of School Readiness Programs or contracted spaces for three and four year old children for early care and education pursuant to Sec. 10-16o. – 10-16r and Sec. 10-16t. –10-16u. CGS and amendments under PA 99-230, the School Readiness and Child Day Care Grant Program.

The Milford School Readiness Council announces the availability of the School Readiness Grant Program Local Request for Proposal (RFP) for the July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023 fiscal year. Programs providing education and care for 3 and 4 year old children residing in the Milford community may be private for-profit centers or non-profit centers, in public schools or part of Head Start. Interested programs should either be licensed, currently accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or able to earn accreditation within three years from the date of funding. In addition, the legislation has identified specific requirements for programs to ensure the highest quality of care for the children in the program. Please review the [School Readiness General Policies](#) found on the Office of Early Childhood website.

The programs awarded School Readiness funds agree to participate in professional development opportunities for their staff, comply with monthly reporting activities, and have their programs evaluated quarterly by the School Readiness Liaison. They also are invited to attend Milford School Readiness Council meetings as well as participate regularly in the local activities and events.

Participating providers in the School Readiness program are supported by the School Readiness Liaison and the School Readiness Council.

Technical assistance for new programs seeking to apply for Milford School Readiness slots is available upon request. Please contact Carole Swift for an application or with questions at cswift@milforded.org. Any program that wishes to become a provider of School Readiness services in the Milford community must submit a local proposal to the Milford School Readiness Council for approval. All local RFP submissions will be reviewed and scored by the Milford School Readiness Council. The Council reserves the right to reject any and all applications submitted after the deadline. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

A single-sided hard copy of the application and an original hard copy of signature pages should be hand delivered to the Superintendent's Office at 70 West River Street, Milford, CT on April 1, at or before 3:00 PM. In addition, an electronic copy of the application should be emailed to Carole Swift, Milford School Readiness Liaison, at cswift@milforded.org on April 1, at or before 3:00 PM.

Once received, reviewed and approved by the School Readiness Council, RFPs will be submitted to the OEC by midnight on May 8th.

Milford School Readiness Quality Enhancement Grant
Legal Notice 2022

The Quality Enhancement Grant Program Local Request for Proposal is available for the July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 fiscal year. The purpose of the Quality Enhancement Grant is to provide funding for programs that focus on education and early care that address quality standards and/or expand comprehensive services for children and families.

The Milford School Readiness Council and Ready to Learn Program is specifically interested in applications for professional development programming in the area of *Documentation and Observation for Teaching Systems (CT DOTS)* for monitoring children's progress on the skills, abilities and behaviors in the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards (CT ELDS). This training should consist of a group review session of the CT DOTS system, and subsequent in-classroom individual coaching with 5 teachers implementing this monitoring cycle.

Organizations or Individuals interested in participating in the open-bid process for the Quality Enhancement Program Local Request for Proposal (RFP), please contact Carole Swift, Milford School Readiness Liaison at cswift@milforded.org.

A single-sided hard copy of the application and an original hard copy of signature pages should be hand delivered to the Superintendent's Office at 70 West River Street, Milford, CT on April 1, at or before 3:00 PM. In addition, an electronic copy of the application should be emailed to Carole Swift, Milford School Readiness Liaison, at cswift@milforded.org on April 1, at or before 3:00 PM.

Once received and reviewed and approved by the School Readiness Council, RFPs will be submitted to the OEC by midnight on May 8th.

DO NOT LET YOUR LIGHTS AND HEAT BE TURNED OFF

Protection from utility shut-off ends September 15, 2021.

Hardship or Winter Protection coding protects your service until May 1, 2022. Call your electric or gas company to see if you are eligible.

Ask About a Payment Plan:

For Heat: After Nov. 1 – ask about Below Budget Worksheet Program

\$50.00 per month if you are on state or federal benefits (SNAP, HUSKY, etc.) or Matching Payment Program

CT Natural Gas: (860) 524-8361 / Southern CT Gas: (800) 659-8299

For Electricity: Eversource: New Start – (860) 286-2000

UI: MaPP – (800) 722-5584

UniteCT (www.bit.ly/UniteCT): Money toward back rent, and light bill. No shut off while they work on your application

Energy Assistance: Money toward back heat bill. Call your utility company or local community action agency

Operation Fuel: (860) 243-2345 Emergency funds for some energy bills. Call to see if they can help

CT Public Utilities Regulatory Authority: (800) 382-4586 Ask for help getting an affordable payment plan.

Need Help?

Call Bonnie Roswig, Center for Children's Advocacy (860) 545-8581 / broswig@cca-ct.org

Kids Count of Milford Preschool Scholarships

Kids Count is pleased to offer the opportunity for Milford parents of 3- and 4-year-old preschoolers to apply for scholarships to attend private Milford preschools. The scholarships are available for the 9-month period (Sept. 2021 through May 2022). Please note that the Kids Count Scholarship has increased as follows: \$130.00 a month for 3 year old children. And \$150.00 a month for 4 year old children.

For further information, please contact Peggy Kelly, Executive Director at METKelly43@gmail.com

Kids Count of Milford
167 Cherry Street, PMB #169
Milford, Connecticut 06460

(See page 8 for the application)

KIDS COUNT OF MILFORD NEWS

Professional Development Workshops for the staff of the Milford Private Preschools

Over the next TWO months, Kids Count is planning to offer workshops provided by early childhood specialists. All the workshops will be conducted via ZOOM. Outreach has been made to the Milford private preschools with an enthusiastic response

Outdoor Preschool Showcase May 21

Parents and children are invited to attend an upcoming event:

Kids Count has arranged with the City of Milford to use the Fowler Field Pavilion on **May 21 from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm** for an outdoor showcase.

Staff of the Private Milford Preschools will be in attendance to meet and greet parents seeking information about philosophy, curriculum and fees of each preschool for the upcoming school year 2022-2023.

Preschool Scholarships

Kids Count of Milford has scholarship funds available for the months of March, April and May, 2022. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship for your child, please visit the Kids Count of Milford website at: www.Kidscountofmilford.com. Complete the application and email the requested documents and application to metkelly43@gmail.com. Questions?? Contact Peggy Kelly at the above email.

Application for Preschool Scholarship

I am interested in applying for a preschool
Scholarship sponsored by Milford Kids Count.

I have attached a copy of my income tax or 4 recent pay stubs to verify my income.

Child's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Total number of dependents claimed on your income tax: _____

Number of children claimed on your income tax: _____

Is your child currently in a preschool program?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, which preschool program?

How long has your child been in preschool/child care?

Where do you intend to enroll your child?

Do you have any concerns about your child?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please check areas of concern:

Physical/Medical: _____

Language: _____

Social/Emotional: _____

Behavioral: _____

Please specify areas of concern:

When you have completed this application, please return it with the appropriate documentation including four most recent pay stubs or your most recent income tax form to:

Peggy Kelly, Executive Director

Kids Count of Milford

167 Cherry Street, PMB #169

Milford, Connecticut 06460

To reach Peggy Kelly, email METKelly43@gmail.com