

# MILFORD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

## The Infant and Toddler Times

JUDY LOBDELL, EDITOR

May 2022

### Dates to Remember

May  
8th.



30th. Memorial Day.  
School closed



June

10th. Last day of  
playgroup

14th. Kick off to  
Summer at  
Pumpkin Delight  
Elementary School  
5:30 to 6:30 pm  
(see page 2)

19th.



21st. Summer begins



**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  
mfrc@milforded.org**

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

### Engaging Toddlers in Nature Play

By Monica Wiedel-Lubinski

Your child is watching your every move and picking up cues based on how you interact with nature. If your aim is to instill respect and love for all things wild, try these simple activities with children ages three months to two years old:

- \* Let baby crinkle dry leaves on the ground. Crunch the leaves with baby as he enjoys the sound.
- \* Visit shrubs and trees to allow baby to touch and grab at the green leaves. Smell the leaves with baby.
- \* Invite baby to grab and feel soil with hands and toes.
- \* Quietly watch birds fly overhead and squirrels pitter patter.
- \* Listen to bird sounds and mimic them for baby: "teacher-teacher-teacher", "peter-peter-peter", or "caw caw"!
- \* Visit nearby flowers. Gently touch and smell the flowers. Say color names to baby and describe how the petals or leaves feel.
- \* Pick up twigs and seeds for baby to manipulate. Try tossing helicopter seeds to watch them spin.
- \* Blow bubbles in the wind. Listen to the sounds of the bubbles pop.
- \* Make sounds with what you find outside. Try tapping acorns, walnuts, or twigs together and invite baby to join in.
- \* Touch tree bark and describe how it feels to baby (rough, smooth, bumpy, scratchy).
- \* Pick up a worm, cricket, or ant and show baby how it moves in your hand. If baby is welcoming, let the tiny animal crawl in baby's hand.
- \* Stand your barefoot baby on soft grass or moss. Encourage baby to touch the grass or moss with fingers, too.
- \* Play in a puddle. Stir up water with twigs, dip fingers or toes in, or float leaves in the water.

Your curious child will develop positive feelings about nature through happy, sensory associations of nature play with you. As you explore together, you are making more than memories; you are nurturing baby's lifelong love of nature!

#### Common Sense Notes about Nature Play

Of course, always supervise your child! Never leave her unattended outdoors and watch closely whenever she is holding small objects. Never allow her to taste any leaves, and do not allow her to play in soil or grass where pesticides or other chemicals may have been applied.

Look for upcoming information on our **Summer Days 2022** program for Milford families with toddlers and preschoolers. We will begin the week of July 11th and run through the 2nd week of August. If you are interested in attending please email us at [mfrc@milforded.org](mailto:mfrc@milforded.org). For further information, call 203-783-3626.

# Preschool Showcase

Sponsored by  
Kids Count of Milford

Kids Count is pleased to announce that the Annual Preschool Showcase will be held:

Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 2022  
From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
at the

Milford Public Library on New Haven Avenue

Preschools from Milford will be there to share information about their programs which will include the school's philosophy, curriculum, registration information and fees.

Parents will have the opportunity to meet the staff and ask questions that will be helpful to them as a beginning step in deciding which preschool they will enroll their child.

Kids Count of Milford will provide information on the importance of preschool and how to choose a preschool

Staff from the Milford Family Resource Center will be on hand to discuss how to prepare your child for preschool.

If you have questions about this event, please feel free to email Peggy Kelly, Executive Director, at [metkelly43@gmail.com](mailto:metkelly43@gmail.com)



Children are welcome!!





MILFORD  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

# KICK OFF TO SUMMER!

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUN

**Tuesday, June 14, 2022**

Pumpkin Delight School  
24 Art Street, Milford

5:30 to 7:30

- Wellness and Safety Information
- Face Painting
- Ice Cream Sundae Bar
- Freebies
- Yoga
- Family concert with Liz McNicholl from 6:30-7:30



## Contacts

[mfrc@milforded.org](mailto:mfrc@milforded.org)

**203 783-3626**

Save the date for the Milford Harbor Duck Race on June 4th at Milford Harbor.

Over 75 great prizes including a 65" Smart TV, Apple iPad, Apple Watch, a Kayak, AirPods and many gift certificates and merchandise to local restaurants.

100% of the proceeds benefit United Way of Milford.

Purchase your tickets today at [www.milfordduckrace.com](http://www.milfordduckrace.com)



## FREE DIAPERS TO MILFORD FAMILIES IN NEED

SATURDAY, MAY 14TH

11AM-2PM

UNITED WAY OF MILFORD

20 EVERGREEN AVE.

**Do you need diapers? You are not alone.**

Sponsored by:





The City of Milford is bringing back the Bike Milford month-long initiative!



# BIKE MILFORD

Various cycling events are planned for the month of May.

The City is home to 17 miles of bikeable shoreline making it one of the most scenic routes for bicyclists.



## May 1st-May 31st - Bike Milford Passport Program

The Bike Milford Passport program is a way to tour our beautiful city while visiting some of our "quick stop" local businesses.



How the Passport Program works:

- 1) Bike to participating businesses.
- 2) Get your passport stamped. Each stamp = one(1) raffle entry
- 3) Hand in passport during the May 28th Bicycle Stunt Show OR snap a photo of your passport and email to [cschull@milfordct.gov](mailto:cschull@milfordct.gov). Passports due no later than June 15th, 2022

Participating businesses include:

- Bees Knees Cafe
- Café Atlantique
- CappuGino's Coffee & Shakes
- Cone Zone
- Devine's Bagels
- Greek Spot Café
- Nate's Plates
- Seaside Nutrition
- Sprout Juice Bar
- Tony's Bikes & Sports
- Touchdown Nutrition
- Walnut Beach Creamery

Passport prizes additionally donated by:

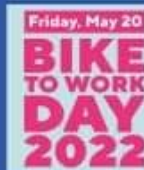
- Milford Recreation
- Elm City Party Bike
- New Haven Painters



May 7th

### Helmet Checks & Discount

10am-5pm at Tony's Bike Shop  
Stop by Tony's for a free helmet check and 10% off a new helmet during the Milford Artisan Market on the Green.



May 20th

### Bike to Work Day

Mayor Blake, Milford Police, friends, family and local officials will ride to work today. We encourage others to do the same!



### May 28th - Bike Rodeo Event

12pm-2pm at Fowler Rotary Pavilion  
The Milford Police Department is hosting a Bike Rodeo. Rodeo events include: bike safety check; stopping at a line; obstacle cone course; riding bikes in a large circle and a small circle; and using hand signals. Bike helmet safety will also be covered.



May 28th

### Bicycle Stunt Show & Vintage Bike Demo

2pm at Fowler Rotary Pavilion  
Join us as Milford Recreation brings Chris Poulos to the stage. Chris is a world champion athlete, youth motivational speaker, and aspiring author who shares powerful life lessons as he demonstrates amazing bicycle stunts.

For more information visit [milfordrecreation.com](http://milfordrecreation.com)

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# Milford Public Schools Parent University &



## **The Community Connection Center of the Milford Public Schools *presents***

### **FAMILY MUSIC NIGHT With Liz McNicholl**



Shake, rattle & roll

All ages

**TUES MAY 10TH @ 6:30PM**

**Calf Pen School**

395 Welch's Point, Milford

Bring a blanket, if it's cold/rain we'll be indoors



Please click here to [register](#).

**Save the date; May 10th at Calf Pen**

Next Family Music Night will be May 24th at PDS

You will find a complete list of scheduled Family Concerts on pg.4



## Milford Public Schools Parent University



### **The Milford Community Connection Center presents A Family Music Series**

#### **3-2-2022 Virtual- Irish Theme Family Concert**

Join Liz McNicholl from County Meath, Ireland & celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Irish song & dance! This is for your whole family! Bring along something to shake to the music. You may even learn some Gaelic!

#### **4-5-2022 Calf Pen Meadow School**

##### **Sing, Dance & Play for Families with Children in Preschool & Kindergarten!**

Incorporating fun age appropriate songs to engage Preschoolers & Kindergarteners. Bring something to shake to incorporate some fun beats for everyone to jam along to.

#### **4-26-2022 Pumpkin Delight School**

##### **Around the World with your Whole family!**

Take a trip around the world, visit Spain, France, Africa as we sing and dance or find other ways to travel.

#### **5-10-2022 Calf Pen Meadow School**

##### **Shake, Rattle and Roll for Families with Children in Preschool & Kindergarten!**

Join us as we make music with your own shakers, our voices and some body percussion & movement.

#### **5-24-2022 Pumpkin Delight School**

##### **Going on A Trip! Fun for the Whole Family!**

Where shall we go and how will we get there? Let's find different modes of transport to travel near and far.

#### **6-7-2022 Calf Pen School**

##### **Drum Jammin' with the Whole Family!**

Let's do a little drumming and jam along to some songs from around the world with different rhythm patterns for body percussion and drumming!

#### **6-14 2022 Pumpkin Delight School**

##### **Summer Fun & Sea Shanties for the Whole Family!**

As warmer weather approaches we'll get into some songs about water and fun in the sun as well as a sea shanty where we'll sail the high seas.

**BRING A BLANKET OR CHAIR TO SIT ON BETWEEN SINGING & DANCING  
IF IT RAINS WE WILL MOVE INSIDE**

**Each concert begins at 6:30pm on Tuesday evenings. To register use the link on the event flyer for the night you wish to attend. Questions? Contact Mary-Kathryn Williams by calling 203-882-6094 or email: [mwilliams@milforded.org](mailto:mwilliams@milforded.org)**



Back indoors at the  
Family Resource Center for the first  
time in 2 years!!

