



HERE WE GROW

Late February/March 2020



Newsletter for families of young children in Westminster, Ashburnham, Ashby, Townsend, Pepperell, and Groton and Dunstable

Greetings from the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Program

"Here We Grow" is a publication of the Ashburnham-Westminster, Ashby-Townsend-Pepperell, Groton-Dunstable Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) Program, funded by the MA Dept. of Early Education & Care (EEC).

The CFCE Program offers many opportunities for families with young children. Weekly playgroups include stories, music and movement, crafts and STEM exploration time. Parent/caregiver workshops are designed to help knowledge of child development and learn strategies for promoting positive and effective behaviors. We also have information about many community resources for families.

The CFCE Program is governed by a Council of parents, educators, child care professionals, and community members. Become involved by attending Council meetings held at 6 PM in our office at Westminster Elementary. Next meetings will be held on March 10th and May 21st



Jana Harrison, CFCE Coordinator jharrison@awrsd.org 978.874.0163



Find the CFCE Facebook page to learn about programs and get the latest information! Search for:

Ashburnham-Westminster RSD CFCE.

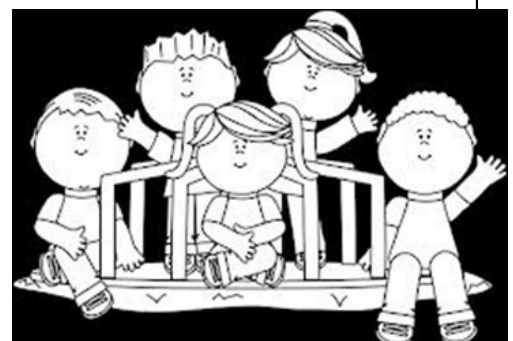
Chardell Davis, CFCE Literacy Specialist,
has created our page to keep you informed!

FREE Parenting Workshops Planned for Thursday mornings in March



Our upcoming *parent training* sessions promote positive and effective parenting behaviors. These will promote children's social and emotional development and address their behaviors and mental health needs. Participants will learn how to promote children's social and emotional skills, understand their problem behaviors, and use positive

approaches to help children learn appropriate behavior. Sessions will give general information on key strategies that may be used with all children. Parents/caregivers will be offered a routine guide providing advice for common family routines. Come to our series on Thursday mornings in March for training at Townsend Library next to SECC. See page 5 for details. Free childcare!



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PLAYGROUPS—OPEN FOR ALL

FUN FOR PRESCHOOLERS

FREE Playgroup/Literacy/Story & Craft Time from now thru June 18th:
for preschoolers with their parent or caregiver

The Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Program

In Ashburnham and Westminster:

Mondays at 1 p.m. at Stevens Memorial Library, 20 Memorial Drive, Ashburnham

Fridays at 10 a.m. at Forbush Memorial Library, 118 Main Street, Westminster

In Ashby, Townsend and Pepperell:

1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Pepperell Children's Library, 15 Main Street, Pepperell

2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Ashby Library, 812 Main Street, Ashby

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Townsend Public Library, 12 Dudley Road Townsend

In Groton and Dunstable:

Mondays at 9:30 a.m. Peter Twomey Youth Center- behind G-D Middle School- 385 Main , Groton

Tuesdays (1st of month) at 1:30 p.m. Dunstable Congregational Church, 518 Main Street Dunstable



Like us on
facebook



Get the latest info on our new FB page!:

Ashburnham-Westminster RSD CFCE

Kindergarten Orientation Schedule

Registration for Kindergarten 2020-21 for all students who will be 5 years old by August 31st has begun.

In **Westminster**, there is a 3-part Kindergarten Orientation Program for students and parents/guardians.

The first session -9:30—10:30 AM -will include a presentation on Kindergarten Curriculum for parents/guardians only. Incoming students and parents/guardians are invited to attend remaining sessions in April and May from 9:30 to 10:30 AM. If you do not receive a mailing (end of March) about this schedule please contact Meetinghouse School at 978-874-0163 ext. 0 or email Mrs. McCarthy at kmccarthy@awrsd.org.

In **Ashburnham**, the Kindergarten Orientation program is planned for Wednesday, May 20th from 9:00 to 10:30 AM. At 9:15 parents/guardians will be invited to join our staff for quick introductions and a chance to ask questions. Registration packets may now be picked up at the Briggs Elementary Office on school days between 8AM and 3:30 PM. Parents/guardians of

children who will be entering Kindergarten this fall are encouraged to call the school (978-827-5750) or email

Mrs. Kuehl at pstlaurentkuehl@awrsd.org

In **N. Middlesex Regional School District** Kindergarten information nights will be held at each elementary school. In **Ashby** the info night will be held on March 2nd from 6-7 PM at Ashby Elementary 978-386-7266.

In **Townsend**, the info night will be held on February 27th from 6-7 PM at Spaulding Memorial 978-597-0380. In **Pepperell**, the info night will be held on February 25th at Varnum Brook Elementary 978-433-6722.

In **Groton-Dunstable Regional School District** Kindergarten Orientation will be held March 4th from 6:30-7:30 at Swallow Union, 522 Main St., **Dunstable** 978-649-7281 and Florence Roche, 342 Main St., **Groton**, 978-448-6665.



FREE Cultural Council opportunities for young children:



SCIENCE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

with **"STEM Family Fun Night"**

This FREE workshop is an opportunity for children to explore the Wonders of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

Friday, March 13th 6-7:30 p.m. — Registration Limited

at: Meetinghouse School, 8 South Street Westminster

Register at — 978-874-0163 or through email: jharrison@awrsd.org

Funded by a grant from the Westminster Cultural Council

Spectacular Science Show

'Kosmic Kelly' presents a **FREE** Spectacular Science Show

Thursday, May 21st 9:00 a.m.

J.R. Briggs Elementary School

96 Williams Road, Ashburnham

Open to all — email jharrison@awrsd.org for more info

Funded by grant from Ashburnham Cultural Council



The Pumpernickel Puppets!

John McDonough presents a FREE Performance of
"3 Billy Goats Gruff & The Lion and Mouse Stories"

Thursday, April 9th 9:30 a.m. at Westminster Elementary,

9 Academy Hill Road, Westminster

Funded by a grant from the Westminster Cultural Council





“BabySteps” College Savings Program

Beginning January 1, 2020, every child born or adopted by Massachusetts residents will be eligible to receive a \$50 seed deposit when families open a UFund 529 college savings account through the new BabySteps Savings Plan. Studies show that college savings account programs have positive effects on children’s early social emotional development, academic achievement, educational expectations and college-going rates. The BabySteps Savings Plan is a statewide college savings account (CSA) program launched by the MA Treasurer’s Office of Economic Empowerment to help families get an early start for saving for their child’s future. BabySteps strives to help families understand the positive impact of saving for college or vocational training from birth onward.

For more information about Baby Steps, please click on the following link: <https://www.babystepssavingsplan.org/>.

Building Fine Motor Skills Through Play and Chores Community Playthings October 2016

Try incorporating these activities into the daily routine to help children grow and build fine motor skills.

Playing Grocery Store: Keep your canned goods on a bottom shelf. Allow your child to play grocery store—take out and rearrange the cans, sort by size, color, or content. This is a math readiness skill, too.

Sorting silverware or setting the table: Sorting silverware into its proper holder is a math skill; as is the

patterning your child will do by laying the napkin, knife, fork, and spoon in order at each place-setting.

Folding clothes: Start with folding washcloths or towels. Fold in half, then fold again to make a quarter.

Stringing things: Make bracelets and necklaces by threading pasta, Fruit Loops, or beads onto pipe cleaners or thick strings. Add a pattern and you add math!



Free ** PARENT DINNER AND PROGRAM** Free

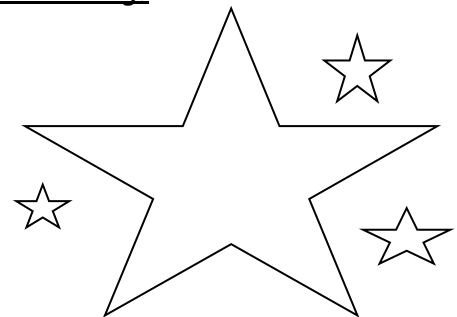
Helping Your Child Form Health Bonds

Wednesday, March 4th, 2020 5:30 7:30 p.m. (Childcare Provided—ages 3&up)

Gardner Middle School, 297 Catherine Street, Gardner—

We all love our kids, but it takes more than love to keep our families strong.

- Make new friends;
- Join a small group to discuss ideas;
- Share information and ideas;
- Learn about community resources;
- Raise strong children and build strong relationships with them;
- Enjoy FREE PIZZA DINNER!



Registration is limited. Please register by March 2nd by calling Ashburnham-Westminster CFCE Office

@978-874-0163, or email jharrison@awrsd.org

Free ** PARENT/CAREGIVER WORKSHOPS** Free

Supporting Children's Positive Behavior: Effective & Practical Strategies for Guiding Social & Emotional Learning

Join us for any or all workshops for parent/caregivers of young children

Session 1—Powerful Tools for Nurturing Relationships

Session 2—Why Children Do What They Do

Session 3—Practical and Effective Strategies & Techniques for Challenges

Thursday mornings - March 5, 12, 19 -9:30-11:30AM snow make-up date: March 26
Townsend Library, 12 Dudley Road — next to Squannacook Early Education Center,
Child care available

RSVP to Jana Harrison, CFCE Coordinator at jharrison@awrsd.org; phone: 978-874-0163

FREE YOUNG CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL — MARCH 28TH



Saturday, March 28th

8:30 - 11:00 a.m.

J.R. Briggs Elementary School

96 Williams Road, Ashburnham

Local Exhibitors, FREE Raffle

Kids' Activities and Crafts

FREE! - Fun for all Ages — FREE!

Performances by:

The Dance Center

Flying Irish Dancers

Held in conjunction with the Easter Bunny Breakfast!!

(Sponsored by the Friends of Briggs PTA—ticketed event)

Sponsored by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Program—grant from the MA Dept. of Early Education & Care



FREE DESIGNING WITH WOOD PROGRAM at SMLibrary



Parent and child will work together to make a Wooden Creation

Open to children ages 2.5—8 years with parent or guardian.

Saturday, April 18 — 2 sessions to choose from: 11AM or 12:30PM

Stevens Memorial Library, Ashburnham. Register: 978-827-4115

All parts and instruction included! Kits from Wooden Toys in Flight Company

FREE! - Sponsored by Stevens Memorial Library and CFCE (funded by MA Dept. of EEC)



Early Childhood Community Newsletter

C/O Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Program

8 South Street, Meetinghouse Elementary School

Westminster, Massachusetts 01473

Phone: 978-874-0163

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A NEWSLETTER FOR FAMILIES
OF YOUNG CHILDREN

ARTICLES in our HERE WE GROW Newsletter



See inside for More Information:

FREE Local Cultural Council Programming for Families with young children:

Friday, March 13th - Westminster—STEM Family Fun Night

Thursday, April 9th - Westminster—Pumpnickel Puppets

Thursday, May 21st - Ashburnham — Spectacular Science Show

Saturday, March 28th in Ashburnham—FREE Young Children's Festival

Designing with Wood — at Stevens Library April 18

Weekly Programming—Storytimes/Playgroups in Ashburnham, Westminster,

Ashby, Townsend and Pepperell and Groton and Dunstable

Parenting Workshops to understand your child's development



Sign up to receive this newsletter and other announcements via email from jharrison@awrsd.org
