

# Connections



## Letter from the Coordinator

Dear Natick Families,

As our community transitions from summer to fall, NECN is preparing for a great year of providing all the information, resources, and services you need to be confident in your role as your child's first teacher. We also hope that, through our organization, you find opportunities to connect with other families and community organizations that lead you to a sense of belonging in the Natick community.

For families new to our organization or those who may not have been aware, NECN is funded by the state through a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant along with 107 other communities in Massachusetts. Along with our funding comes a set of objectives we uphold with the purpose of providing quality and comprehensive support to Natick families. If you are ever interested in learning more about why we do what we do, please consider joining our Parent Programming Committee. This is a parent group that helps NECN provide programs that are relevant to Natick families. Contact the office for more information 508-655-2557.

As we start off our programming year, I would like to share with you the unfortunate news that our grant funding has been cut 4.75% this year. This cut was state-wide and effects all of the other CFCE grantees. We saved as much of our direct service programs as possible (playgroups, parent workshops, drop-in and open gym), but we need your support now more than ever!

If you have found our **free** programs and resources to be useful to you and your family over the years, please consider helping to support and sustain our organization through our many volunteer opportunities or donating supplies (please see pg 5).



I'd like to be clear that, although our funding has been decreased, you are our priority and we aren't going anywhere! When deciding where to cut money from our budget, we gave thought to attendance records and all the wonderful feedback we received from you last year. I feel strongly that we are spending our money in the most effective and beneficial places for Natick families.

Welcome back to NECN! I look forward to sharing another year with all of you!

Warmest Wishes,  
Lindsey Tarrant  
Program Coordinator

## Natick Early Childhood Network



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www.natickearlychildhood.org

### Special Features:

- ☺ Shopping Amazon supports NECN! Remember to use the link on our website before you begin your online shopping!
- ☺ Visit our website to find out more about NECN's Google Group!
- ☺ Check us out on Facebook!

### Inside this issue:

NECN Fall Activities	2
Activities Cont...	3
Community Resources	3
Local Children/Family Activities	4
Support NECN	5
Provider Support	6
Registration Form	7

## NECN September/October Activities

### Parent/Child Programs

<p>Thursdays; 1-2:30p Ongoing</p> <p><b>No Registration!</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rookie Mommies</b> (infant 0-6mo with mother)</p>	<p><b>Held in the Cole Center NECN Playroom.</b> Are you a 1st time mommy looking to meet others like you? Enjoy this informal chat time in our playroom to spend with your bundle of joy in a safe and warm environment while also meeting other new mommies! Take advantage of access to information about lactation, sleep habits, and other important topics in caring for your newborn.</p>
<p>Mondays; 11:30-1p Sept 12– Oct 24 NO CLASS Oct 10</p> <p><b>Registration Required!</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Jeepers Creepers</b> (children 6-12mo with an adult)</p>	<p><b>Held in the Cole Center NECN Playroom.</b> A playgroup opportunity just for pre-walkers with a parent! Come explore the playroom in this 6-session group as your baby is growing more and more independent and interactive. Enjoy parent chats, quiet observation and stimulating activities for your little one. Bring a snack from home—no peanut/nut products, please.</p>
<p>Tuesdays; 11:30-1p Sept 13– Oct 18</p> <p><b>Registration Required!</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wonderful Ones</b> (children 12-24mo with an adult)</p>	<p><b>Held in the Cole Center NECN Playroom.</b> Enjoy this 6-session playgroup opportunity just for “ones” with a grown-up! Playgroup elements will include: free play, circle time with songs and fingerplays, multi-sensory activities and time to enjoy a snack brought from home (no peanut/nut products, please).</p>
<p>Wednesdays 9:30-11a Sept 14– Oct 19</p> <p><b>Registration Required!</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Terrific Twos</b> (children 24-36mo with an adult)</p>	<p><b>Held in the Cole Center NECN Playroom.</b> Enjoy this 6-session playgroup opportunity just for “twos” with a grown-up! This is a great opportunity to connect with others and to discuss the terrible and terrific twos with those who really understand. Playgroup elements will include: free play, circle time with songs and fingerplays, multi-sensory activities and time to enjoy a snack brought from home- no peanut/nut products, please.</p>
<p>Fridays; 10:30-12p Sept 16– Oct 21</p> <p><b>Registration Required!</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mandarin Chat &amp; Play</b> (children birth-PreK with an adult)</p>	<p><b>Held in the Cole Center NECN Playroom.</b> This 6– week playgroup includes free play, craft, snack, and a circle time facilitated in Mandarin! This is a great group for bi-lingual families! Please do your best to sign in at the door in English with family’s name and child’s name. Enjoy time to enjoy a nut-free snack brought from home. Facilitated by NECN Parent Tien-Yiao Hsu.</p>
<p>Saturday; 10:30-12p Oct 15</p> <p><b>Registration Required!</b></p>	<p>In Collaboration with Morse Institute Library....</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tots &amp; Tales</b> (children 2-6yrs old with an adult)</p>	<p><b>Held at the Morse Institute Library in the Lebowitz Meeting Hall.</b> A wonderful way to share books with your toddler or preschooler! Participants engage in play, story, songs and creative craft activities centered on a book theme. Then, they receive a free copy of the featured book at each of the sessions to connect the experience at home! Facilitated by Judy Dixon, educator and veteran NECN Coordinator.</p>
<p>Saturday; 10:30-12p Oct 8</p> <p><b>Registration Required!</b></p>	<p>In Collaboration with Morse Institute Library....</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Me &amp; My Dad</b> (children birth-PreK with father/male caregiver)</p>	<p><b>Held at the Morse Institute Library in the Lebowitz Meeting Hall.</b> Fathers and children are invited to enjoy this special time set aside just for them. Come to enjoy free play, crafts, stories, musical circle time and morning snack with other Natick dads and kids. New and returning participants are always welcome to register! Facilitated by Judy Dixon, educator and veteran NECN Coordinator.</p>

#### Drop- In

Tuesdays 9:00-11:00a  
Wednesdays 11:30-1:30p

#### Open Gym

Mondays 9:00-11:00a  
Fridays 9:00-11:00a

## Community Events

<p>Wednesday, Oct 26 6:30-8:30</p>	<p align="center"><b>10th Annual EEC Open House</b> (childcare and transportation available upon request)</p>	<p><b>Held in the Cole Center Gym.</b> Whether you are seeking infant/toddler care while you're working or need a pre-school placement for next fall, this is the place to look! Initiate the process of identifying the right setting for your child at this open forum event just for parents. Meet representatives from local preschools, daycare centers and family childcare providers. This is a great way to gather information and decide which sites you want to visit! NECN will provide a list of all participants with contact information. Registration requested (required for child care); walk-ins welcome.</p>
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## Parent Workshops

<p>Tuesday, Sept 27 7-8:30p</p>	<p align="center"><b>Financial Strategies for Families</b> (childcare and transportation available upon request)</p>	<p><b>Held in the Cole Center Classroom.</b> Attend this workshop facilitated by Deborah Goodman, C.P.A, C.F.P to learn more about budgeting, employment considerations, useful tax credits, child care options, managing risks, saving for college, and other important financial goals!</p>
<p>Tuesday, Oct 4 7-8:30p</p>	<p align="center"><b>Choosing a Preschool</b> (childcare and transportation available upon request)</p>	<p><b>Held at the Cole Center Classroom.</b> NOW is the time to begin the process of placing your child in preschool for Fall 2012. This workshop is designed to get you started. Enjoy an informal overview of the various types of preschools in our community, and discuss what to look for and what questions to ask when you meet with prospective schools for your child. Presented by Amy Hinrichs, MAT, Preschool Lead Teacher and Natick Early Childhood Network parent of three. Registration is required!</p>

## Community Resources

<p align="center"><b>Child Care Resource Center, Inc.</b> www.cccrc.org 617-547-1063</p>	<p>Assistance in locating local childcare, linkage to state financial assistance for childcare.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Criterion-Middlesex Early Intervention</b> www.criterionchild.com/ei_mid.html 508-620-1442</p>	<p>Development evaluations, therapies, and playgroups.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Natick Public Schools</b> www.natickps.org 508-647-6500</p>	<p>Serves children with special needs beginning at age 3 and provides transitional support for incoming kindergarteners.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Natick Family Child Care Association</b> http://natickfamilychildcare.vpweb.com</p>	<p>Network of family childcare providers, information about availability.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Mass 2-1-1</b> www.mass211.org Dial 2-1-1 on Touchtone phone</p>	<p>Free access to health and human services, information and referral.</p>
<p align="center"><b>A Place to Turn</b> www.aplacetoturn-natick.org 508-655-8868</p>	<p>Provides emergency food and clothing.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Natick Service Council</b> www.natickservicecouncil.org 508-655-1791</p>	<p>Services include: food pantry, thrift shop, eviction prevention, utility aid, crisis counseling, dental and mental health programs, and career development.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Natick Human Services Department</b> http://natickma.gov/Public_Documents/NatickMA_Human/index 508-647-6519</p>	<p>Information and referral, support accessing services, crisis intervention, family counseling, and emergency financial assistance.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Natick SEPAC</b> www.natickps.org/Districtinfo/sepac/main.cfm NatickSepac@gmail.com</p>	<p>Special Education Parent Advisory Committee-dedicated to providing information, recommendations and friendships to families in Natick looking for some connections.</p>

## Local Children's/Family Opportunities Cont...

<p><i>MetroWest Mothers &amp; More</i>  <a href="http://www.metrowestmothersandmore.org">www.metrowestmothersandmore.org</a></p>	<p><b>Discussion- Friendships and Friendships:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 12th, 7:30-9p @ Whitney Place</li> </ul>
<p><i>ISIS Parenting</i>          110 Second Avenue, Needham          781-429-1500  <a href="http://www.isisparenting.com">www.isisparenting.com</a></p>	<p><b>Programs for Parents and Children birth-3yrs</b></p>
<p><i>Destination Maternity</i>          104 Worcester St, Natick          508-653-1605</p>	<p><b>Free Mommy and Baby Classes</b></p>
<p><i>Natick Cooperative Playgroup</i>          First Baptist Church, 13 Common Street, Natick  <a href="http://www.natickcooperativeplaygroup.com">www.natickcooperativeplaygroup.com</a></p>	<p><b>Parent/Child Playgroups:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>M, T, Th, F 9:30-11:30a</li> </ul>
<p><i>Natick Community Organic Farm</i>          117 Eliot Street, Natick          508-655-2204  <a href="http://www.natickfarm.org">www.natickfarm.org</a></p>	<p><b>Preschool, School Age, and Family Programs</b></p>
<p><i>Morse Institute Library</i>          14 E. Central Street, Natick          508-647-6520  <a href="http://www.morseinstitute.org">www.morseinstitute.org</a></p>	<p><b>Bookmobile:</b>          2nd Monday of the Month 5:30-8:15p</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buckingham Rd</li> <li>Columbia Ave.</li> <li>Fiske St</li> </ul> <p>3rd Monday of the Month 5:30-8:15p</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MacArthur Rd</li> <li>Euclid Cr.</li> <li>Westlake Rd.</li> </ul> <p><b>Learn English Classes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beginners/Intermediate Thursdays 6:30-8p</li> <li>Intermediate Fridays 10:30a-12p</li> </ul>
<p><i>GymFit</i>          148 E. Central Street, Natick          508-651-3838  <a href="http://www.gymfit.us">www.gymfit.us</a></p>	<p><b>Open Gym:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fridays, 10:30-11:30a</li> <li>1-5yrs old</li> </ul> <p><b>Kids Fun Night Out:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saturdays, 5-8:30p</li> <li>2-11yrs old</li> <li>DROP OFF!</li> </ul>
<p><i>The Center for Arts, Natick (TCAN)</i>          14 Summer Street, Natick          508-647-0097  <a href="http://www.natickart.org">www.natickart.org</a></p>	<p><b>Preschool &amp; School Age Classes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dance, Theatre, Arts</li> </ul> <p><b>Family Performances</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Johnny Peers and the Muttville Comix Saturday, September 10th, 2-3p</li> <li>Alastair Mook &amp; The Rowdy Roots Saturday, September 24th, 11a-12p</li> <li>Cathy &amp; Marcy's Song Shop Saturday, October 15th, 2-3p</li> <li>The Stacey Peasley Band Saturday, October 29th, 11a-12p</li> </ul>
<p><i>Natick Recreation and Parks Department</i>          179 Boden Lane, Natick          508-647-6530  <a href="http://natickma.gov/recreation">Http://natickma.gov/recreation</a></p>	<p><b>Preschool and School Age Programs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art, Dance, Gym, Sports</li> <li>Online Registration Wed., September 7th @ 7p</li> </ul> <p><b>Family Events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natick Days Saturday, September 10th on the Common</li> <li>Spooktacular Saturday, October 29th, on the Common</li> </ul>

## Volunteer Opportunities

Parent/Child Playgroup Facilitators	Involves running a once a week program for 6 weeks and developing an agenda. Materials are provided by NECN. Groups can be multi-age and theme-based.
Childcare for Parent Workshops	Involves 2hrs of “babysitting” while other parents attend a workshop across the hall. This does not involve changing diapers.
Fundraisers	NECN is currently looking for volunteers to help organize and run a community yard sale and format/organize recipes for a family cookbook.
NECN Advocates	This would involve calling town and state officials to inform them of our organization and the budget cuts and/or inform local businesses as well as outreach to other families in Natick that may benefit from being connected to our organization.
Newsletter Crew	Involves helping fold, stamp, and mail newsletters on a bi-monthly basis. NECN would also appreciate volunteers willing to distribute newsletters to other community organizations in Natick (libraries, housing authority, town hall, etc...)
“Welcome Baby” Bag Deliverers	Involves picking up bags from NECN, taking them to household of new parent and either leaving the bag if no one is home, or introducing yourself to the parent and inform them of NECN.

## NECN Wish List

- Animal Crackers
- Apple Juice
- Colored Laser Copy Paper
- Glue Sticks
- Tissues
- Clorox Anywhere Spray
- Craft Store Gift Card
- Stickers

*\*Monetary donations welcome, checks can be made to ACCEPT Education Collaborative.*



# Provider Support

## How Can NECN Help You?

NECN is funded through a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement grant from the Department of Early Education and Care. As part of our grant, we help provide linkages to professional development opportunities for early education and care providers in Natick.

NECN can offer providers referrals to mental health consultants and other services that may be needed at your location.

As part of the QRIS, licensed early education and care providers are required to meet standards involving community engagement. NECN has multiple volunteer opportunities for providers throughout the year. This results in a mutually beneficial relationship as your organization provides support to us, we help you meet QRIS requirements as well as provide an opportunity to inform the community about your center or family child care.

## Directors Collaborative

The Directors Collaborative is a group of early education and care providers from Framingham and Natick. Our meetings give providers an opportunity to network, share ideas, and resources, as well as gather information about licensure. Meeting locations alternate from Framingham and Natick and are supported by Early Childhood Alliance of Framingham and Natick Early Childhood Network.

**Tuesday, October 4th; 9:00-10:00a**  
**King Administration Building**  
**454 Water St, Framingham**

**Thursday, November 3rd; 9:00-10:00a**  
**The Cole Center**  
**179 Boden Lane, Natick**

## NECN Council

The NECN Council is a group of community organizations, parents, childcare providers, and others dedicated to supporting Natick families. The purpose of the council is to address perceived challenges in accessibility and availability of services through collaboration and measure NECN's progress in meeting objectives. Together we can weave a network of quality opportunities for families in Natick! Please join us for our first meeting of FY12 on:

**Tuesday, September 13; 7:00-9:00p**  
**Morse Institute Library, Community Meeting Room**  
**14 E. Central Street, Natick**

## Professional Qualifications Registry Information

All educators must be registered on EEC's Professional Qualifications Registry (PQ Registry) before they can enroll in any professional trainings or college courses. This includes educators in licensed AND license-exempt programs. Your official PQ Registry number is required on all application forms. To find out more about the PQ Registry, talk to your Director or supervisor, or go to:  
<https://www.eec.state.ma.us/PQRegistry/>

## Local Professional Development Opportunities

### From COMPASS for Kids

[www.parentingresourceassociates.org](http://www.parentingresourceassociates.org)

#### *Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders*

Tuesday, September 20th; 7:00-9:00p  
Whitney Place, 3 Vision Drive, Natick  
\$25 fee

#### *Enhancing Supervision Techniques and Practices*

Saturdays, October 1, 15, 22, and November 19; 10:00-12:00p  
Whitney Place, 3 Vision Drive, Natick  
\$100 fee

#### *Building and Supporting Positive Relationships and Interactions*

Tuesdays, October 18 & 25; 7:00-9:00p  
The Cottage Children's Center, 197 Union Street, Marlborough  
\$50 fee

### From CCRC, Inc.

[www.cccrcinc.org](http://www.cccrcinc.org)

#### *Including Children With Disabilities and Their Families*

Thursdays, September 15 & 22; 6:30-9:00p  
Mass Bay Community College, 19 Flagg Drive, Framingham  
\$25 fee subsidies, \$50 fee no subsidies

#### *Family Child Care Orientation*

Monday, September 19, 9:00-3:00p  
Mass Bay Community College, 19 Flagg Drive, Framingham  
\$30 fee

#### *Foundations of Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos*

Saturday, October 22; 9:30-3:30p  
Morse Institute Library, 14 E. Central Street, Natick  
\$25 fee subsidies, \$50 fee no subsidies

### From The Early Childhood Professionals Association

[www.tecpa.org](http://www.tecpa.org)  
508-655-3813

#### *What We Really Need to Know About Autism*

Wednesday, September 21; 6:30-8:30 (6p light dinner)  
Morse Institute Library, 14 E. Central Street, Natick  
\$25 fee

#### *Understanding the Link Between Children's Behavior & Vision Problems*

Thursday, October 13; 6:30-8:30 (6p light dinner)  
First Baptist Church, 808 High Street, Westwood  
\$25 fee

#### *Children With Special Needs: Asthma, Diabetes, Seizure Disorders, and More*

Thursday, October 19; 6:30-8:30 (6p light dinner)  
Morse Institute Library, 14 E. Central Street, Natick  
\$25 fee

For EEC's Statewide Training Calendar Visit:  
[www.eec.state.ma.us/ProfessionalDevelopment/WebFindTrainings.aspx](http://www.eec.state.ma.us/ProfessionalDevelopment/WebFindTrainings.aspx)

# Natick Early Childhood Network



# Registration Form

Phone: (508) 655-2557

(If you leave voicemail, please give all details as requested form below!)

Mail, or drop in envelope on our door:  
Natick Early Childhood Network  
179 Boden Lane, Natick, MA 01760

Registration lottery deadline:  
Wednesday, 09/07/11

*Please provide all requested information:*

Parent name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Caregiver (other than parent) who will bring child(ren) to program: \_\_\_\_\_

Child/children registering for these programs:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

## PARENT/CHILD GROUPS

- Due to space limitations you are eligible to participate in only one parent/child group per session.
- New Participants in each program type will be placed first..

\_\_\_ Rookie Mommies (0-6mo)      \_\_\_ Mandarin Chat & Play (multi-age)

\_\_\_ Jeepers Creepers (6-12mo)      \_\_\_ Tots & Tales (multi-age)

\_\_\_ Wonderful Ones (12-24mo)      \_\_\_ Me & My Dad (multi-age)

\_\_\_ Terrific Twos (24-36mo)

## PARENT WORKSHOPS

\_\_\_ Financial Strategies for Families

\_\_\_ Choosing a Preschool

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

\_\_\_ 10th Annual EEC Open House

*We will make every effort to call you back within 2 working days of our lottery to confirm your registration.*

**Natick Early Childhood Network**



179 Boden Lane, Natick, MA 01760

508-655-2557

[www.natickearlychildhood.org](http://www.natickearlychildhood.org)

NON-PROFIT