

Natick Early Childhood Network

...putting Children First

Connections



January/February 2010 Volume 10 Issue 3

Natick Kindergarten Transition Timeline

If you have a child who will turn 5 years old by September 1, 2010, the registration process for public school kindergarten will be starting soon! Here's a look ahead to what you can expect:

January: Natick Public Schools will contact you by mail with a kindergarten registration packet. (You were contacted by mail in October to confirm your child's preregistration status. If you haven't been contacted by your neighborhood elementary school, please call them. The preregistration information is forwarded from the town census data and isn't always up-to-date.)

February/March: You and your child will visit his/her future school for a registration appointment, to include a review of registration paperwork, a vision and hearing test, and a brief developmental screening.

April/May: You'll be invited to attend an evening kindergarten orientation program for parents at your child's future school.

May: You and your child will participate in a kindergarten orientation visit. Your child will have the opportunity to participate in an activity with his/her peers and the kindergarten staff at his/her new school!

Late June: You'll receive another mailing--this time from your child's school--with your child's class/teacher assignment and other useful information to get you ready for the fall. The PTO from your school will include information about summer meet-and-greet opportunities for kindergarten families at your school site.

Late August/September: Your child will start kindergarten with a modified schedule during the first two days to ease him/her into the new school year.

If you have specific questions about this process, check out the website for the NPS: www.natickps.org . Click on District Info and scroll down to Kindergarten Registration. Still have questions? Call Natick Public Schools at: 508-647-6500

Your Caregiver is Welcome Here!

We seek to support all kinds of families, and that includes working families whose children may have a nanny or other informal caregiver during the day. Your care provider is welcome to register for and attend almost all of our parent/child activities. Just let us know who will be accompanying your child when you register for our programs.

FREE Transportation Available



No family should miss out on the support, information or fun of NECN activities because they lack transportation. We have a budget to provide transportation via Natick Cab for families who would like to join in our groups, classes or events. Please let the office know if you require this service when you are requesting registration for any of our programs: 508-655-2557.

New NECN Fundraiser: Restaurant of the Month

January 25: California Pizza Kitchen

February 7: Boloco

Escape the house and get out for a meal. Meet up with other NECN families for a winter get-together. Clip the NECN "coupons" that you'll find on our January and February calendar pages OR visit our website and look for the link to Restaurant of the Month: www.natickearlychildhood.org. A coupon must be presented in order for your purchase to qualify for the fundraiser.

**January/February
Drop-In & Open Gym**
NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED!
CAREGIVERS WELCOME.

Drop-In provides the opportunity to come with your child for free play in the NECN Playroom at the Cole Center and to meet other Natick families with young children.

Pre-Walkers Drop-In:

(Just for children birth - pre-walkers)

Monday 12 noon - 2 pm

Me & My Dad Drop-In:

(Especially for dads with children birth - PreK)

Thursday 12 noon - 2 pm

General Drop-In:

(Children birth - PreK)

Wednesday 11 am - 1 pm

Friday 11 am - 1 pm

Open Gym Hours

A drop-in opportunity for unstructured physical play inside the Cole Center Gym; **for competent walkers!**

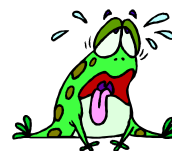
Wednesdays 8:30 - 10:30 am

Fridays 8:30 - 10:30 am

**Snow
Cancellation
Policy**



In the event of inclement winter weather, Natick Early Childhood Network will cancel all programs for the day and evening when the Natick Public Schools close. Check the local news to see if the schools are closed or call the NECN office (508-655-2557) to hear a voice mail message regarding program cancellations due to weather.



Health Policy

If your child has a runny nose, active cough or fever, has vomited, or has been on prescription medication to treat a contagious illness **for less than 24 hours**, PLEASE keep him or her home from all NECN activities. The best way for all of us to stay healthy is to minimize exposure to illness. If you will miss a program offering due to illness or any other reason, please call the office and let us know not to expect you. (509) 655-2557.

Food Cooperative for Community Volunteers!

Do you volunteer for a community organization (like NECN!) for at least 2 hours per MONTH? If so, you are eligible to receive discounted, high-quality, fresh foods through Serve New England Food Program. Natick's Council on Aging/Human Services Dept. serves as a local distribution sight where residents can pick up their monthly orders. This is a program designed to encourage volunteerism--NOT a needs-based support program. Call Sheila Young at 508-647-6540 for more information.

FREE Tax Preparation offered by Natick Human Services

Free tax preparation for low to moderate income families is available by appointment beginning in February through Natick Human Services Dept. Call: (508) 647-6519.

You & Your Baby Have Friends at the Morse Institute Library!

Visit the desk in the Children's Department (lower level) of the Morse Institute Library to receive your "Books for Babies" gift. The gift bag, available to families with a child from 0-12 months old, includes:

- Baby's first board book
- "Books for Babies" bib
- Library and program information
- Suggestions to help your baby enjoy reading

**Natick SEPAC
(Special Education Parent Advisory
Council)**

Demystifying the Transition from Early Intervention in Natick

Thursday, January 28, 7 - 9 p.m.

Natick Town Hall

13 East Central Street, 3rd Floor, Natick

www.naticksepac.org

Panelists include: Kelly Short of Criterion-Middlesex Early Intervention, Jen Hart, Pre-K Coordinator for Natick & Isabel Romero, Preschool Teacher, Hand in Hand Preschool