

Natick Early Childhood Network

... putting Children First



March/April 2010 Activities

Registration lottery deadline: Wednesday, February 24, 2010

- Registration is required for all listed programs. Program lottery will be held on Thursday, February 25.
- Requests may be submitted in person, by phone/voicemail at (508) 655-2557, or via U.S. mail (179 Boden Lane, Natick) at any time prior to the lottery deadline.
- Program requests after the lottery will be honored on a space-available basis. Call to check availability!

Parent Workshops/Programs

Date/Time	Title	Description
Wednesday March 3 7 – 8:30 pm <i>***Rescheduled due to snow in February -- there's still room!!!***</i>	Toddler Talk: A Program for NECN Parents and Playgroup Facilitators <i>(Complimentary childcare available.)</i>	<i>Held at the Cole Center.</i> Young children often get frustrated, because they don't have the words to communicate their wants and needs. Are you observing meltdowns and behaviors you think might be linked to your child's difficulty communicating with you? This workshop will look at typical language development from birth to preschool age. Participants will learn how to differentiate between age-appropriate language errors and problematic errors. You'll also learn many ways to foster language development in a playful manner that can be used one-on-one or in a group setting! Facilitated by Jill Vetstein, Social Worker (LICSW) and Developmental Specialist.
Tuesday March 30 7 – 8:30 pm	Wigglers, Waddlers, & Warriors: Motor Development in the Young Child (A Program for NECN Parents and Playgroup Facilitators) <i>(Complimentary childcare available.)</i>	<i>Held at the Cole Center.</i> The term motor skills refers to the planned movements we do to accomplish tasks. Gross motor, which is the use of our larger muscles, includes the abilities to sit, balance, crawl, walk, run and jump. Fine motor, which is the use of our smaller muscles, leads to self-feeding, manipulating toys, scribbling, and eventually writing. Both are important areas where young children make huge strides in their early years. This workshop will provide an overview of typical motor development in children from birth through age 4. It will educate and empower parents and caregivers on age-appropriate skills for every stage and provide tools to help children achieve their next milestone. Facilitated by Jill Vetstein, Social Worker (LICSW) and Developmental Specialist.
Thursdays April 1 & 8 7 - 9 pm	<i>In collaboration with Bright Horizons at Natick and Century Health Systems...</i> Pediatric First Aid & CPR for Parents 2 Parts!	<i>Held at Bright Horizons at Natick, 313 Speen Street, Natick.</i> For parents of young children, this course teaches participants how to manage sudden illness and injuries in a child during the first few minutes until health professionals arrive. Topics include first aid basics, medical emergencies, injuries, asthma care AND infant and child CPR. Presented by Juanita Allen, EMT and Director, Community Health Education Programs, Century Health Systems. (NOTE: When registering, please indicate the number of adults from your household who wish to take this course.)
Wednesdays April 7 – May 19 NO CLASS: April 21 7 – 8:30 pm	Positive Parenting Series for Parents of Children PreK thru Kindergarten <i>(Complimentary childcare available.)</i>	<i>A convenient Natick location to be announced!</i> "Let's start at the very beginning, a very good place to start..." As our children are starting formalized schooling, we, too, can share in new beginnings. Let's talk positive parenting: respect (for parents and children); communication; "good fits;" reasonable expectations; appropriate consequences. Participants in this 6-session parenting education group will have ample opportunity to discuss and address their own challenges and questions. The sessions will be fun, interactive, and informative. Facilitated by Hetti Wohlgemuth, EdM, LCSW, of Jewish Family Service of MetroWest.
Thursday April 15 7 – 8:30 pm	Child's Play: Why Can't We Just All Get Along? (A Program for NECN Parents and Playgroup Facilitators) <i>(Complimentary childcare available.)</i>	<i>Held at the Cole Center.</i> Learning to play alongside and, eventually, with other children is an important part of your child's social development. As parents and group facilitators, we often don't know how to teach the skills that lead to cooperative play. Sometimes we feel embarrassed by our child's behavior with her peers, but our attempts to intervene don't seem to help. As much as we advise children to "share" and "use their words," sometimes negative behaviors continue. This workshop will help parents and group facilitators teach children <i>how</i> to share and take turns. Participants will learn how to address grabbing, pushing/hitting, hoarding, and forfeiting toys to more dominant group members. Parents and caregivers will walk away from this workshop with a clearer concept of how to best support their children aged 15 months thru 5 years in social settings. Facilitated by Jill Vetstein, Social Worker (LICSW) and Developmental Specialist.

Natick Early Childhood Network

... putting Children First



Intergenerational Playgroup

Date/Time	Title	Description
<p>Tuesdays March 9 April 13 9:30 – 11 am</p>	<p>Grandparents Playgroup (children birth thru PreK with grandparent or older-generation caregiver)</p>	<p><i>Held at the Cole Center.</i> Join us as we continue our monthly “chat and play” group just for grandparents with young grandchildren. Meet other grandparents and talk about the joys and challenges of “hands-on grandparenting.” Playgroup will include adult discussion, free play, crafts, snack and circle time with stories and songs. Adult participants must either live in Natick OR care for a child who lives in Natick. New and returning participants are always welcome to register! Facilitated by NECN Program Coordinator Judy Dixon.</p>

Saturday Playgroups

Date/Time	Title	Description
<p>Saturdays March 13 w. music by Ed Morgan April 3 10:30 am - 12 noon</p>	<p><i>In collaboration with Morse Institute Library...</i> Working Parents Playgroup (children birth thru PreK with adult)</p>	<p><i>Held at the Morse Institute Library in the Lebowitz Meeting Hall, Lower Level.</i> Moms and/or Dads, bring your children for a morning of play and activities while you get a chance to check in with other working parents of young children. A snack, craft and musical circle time are included in the program. New and returning participants are always welcome to register! Facilitated by NECN Working Parent and Educator Hayley Sonneborn.</p>
<p>Saturdays March 20 April 10 w. music by Ed Morgan 10:30 am – 12 noon</p>	<p><i>In collaboration with Morse Institute Library...</i> Me & My Dad: A Playgroup for Dads (children birth thru PreK with father/male caregiver)</p>	<p><i>Held at the Morse Institute Library in the Lebowitz Meeting Hall, Lower Level.</i> 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 NECN Parent and Social Worker Meredith Tarr.</p>

Family Events

Date/Time	Title	Description
<p>Sunday February 28 2 – 4 pm</p>	<p><i>In collaboration with Morse Institute Library...</i> Walk Into The Book (families with children birth thru kindergarten; older siblings too!)</p>	<p>SPACE STILL AVAILABLE! <i>Held at Morse Institute Library in the Lebowitz Meeting Hall, Lower Level.</i> Did you ever share a story so wonderful that you wished that you and your child could climb right inside to experience it more fully? Your dreams have come true. Join us promptly at 2 p.m. for a shared story in the vestibule on the lower level of Morse Institute Library. Then watch as we open the “cover” and Walk Into The Book to engage in a wide variety of activities related to the text. There will be: music; crafts; counting activities; games; sensory experiences; a healthy snack and more.</p>
<p>Saturday May 1 10 am – 12 noon</p>	<p><i>In collaboration with the Early Education & Care Community...</i> A Day in the Life of a Preschooler (families with children birth thru kindergarten; older siblings too!)</p>	<p><i>Held at the Bennett-Hemenway (Ben-Hem) Elementary School, East Evergreen Rd., Natick.</i> Ever wonder what goes on at preschool? Whether you have a current preschooler or a toddler who will soon be trying out his/her first formal educational environment, come sample the many flavors of early learning at this collaborative family event. Circulate through a variety of kid-centered activities facilitated by the preschool educators of Natick. Pick up program information while your children explore. Activities will celebrate the best practices in early education—sensory exploration, games, counting activities, visual arts, music/rhythm, language & literacy and MORE! Don’t miss it!</p>

Natick Early Childhood Network

... putting Children First



Parent/Child Groups: One per family, please. New participants for each program preferred.

Date/Time	Title	Description
Mondays March 15 – May 24 NO CLASS: April 19 OR Thursdays March 18 – May 27 NO CLASS: April 22 9:30 – 11:30 am	<i>In collaboration with Criterion-Middlesex Early Intervention...</i> Spring Integrated Playgroup (children 18 – 30 months with parent; sorry, no siblings)	<i>Held at the Cole Center.</i> These 9- or 10-session groups offers a play experience for 4 early intervention clients and 4 community children with their parents. Each session includes free play, snack, circle time and other directed activities to promote fine and gross motor skills, language, and socialization. Children learn social skills like sharing and turn-taking, and enhance their ability to handle transitions. Both groups facilitated by Chelsea Sweetapple, Developmental Specialist.
Tuesdays March 16 – April 27 NO CLASS: April 20 9:30 – 11 am	Tuesday Toddler Talk: A Survival Group for Parents (for parents with toddlers 15 – 30 months)	<i>Held at the Cole Center.</i> Toddlerhood brings a whole set of new joys and challenges to your family. There are transitions related to increased mobility, new sleep patterns, new foods, toilet learning, and other areas of development. Come share your coping strategies with others and gain some new ideas from the group while your children enjoy free play together and form first friendships! Six educational sessions are facilitated by Hetti Wohlgenuth, EdM, LCSW, of Jewish Family Service of MetroWest.
Wednesdays March 3 – April 28 NO CLASS: April 21 9:30 – 11 am	Pitter Patter Playgroup (children 18 – 24 months with caregiver)	<i>Held at the Cole Center.</i> Enjoy this 8-session playgroup just for older “ones” with a grown-up! We’ll meet in the gym for some physical play and then move on to the NECN playroom for: a shared snack time; free play; multi-sensory activities; and a brief circle time with story, songs and fingerplays. Facilitated by NECN Parent Volunteers Amy Siegel-Wood and Shoshana Savitz.
Fridays March 5 – April 30 NO CLASS: April 2 & 23 9:30 – 11 am	Wonderful Ones Playgroup (children 12 – 18 months with caregiver)	<i>Held at the Cole Center.</i> Enjoy this 7-session playgroup opportunity just for younger “ones” with a grown-up! Playgroup elements will include: free play, circle time with songs and fingerplays, multi-sensory activities and an opportunity to enjoy snack brought from home—no peanut/nut products, please. Facilitated by NECN Parent Volunteers Johanna Edelson and Rosemary Gaffney.

Volunteer Opportunities

Time Frame	Role	Description
May/June	Playgroup Volunteer	Bring your child and lead a playgroup for other parents with children of similar ages. No experience necessary. Training and support are provided!
February 28 May 1	Event Volunteer	Help with set-up, welcome and clean-up for the <i>Walk into the Book</i> OR annual <i>Day in the Life of a Preschooler</i> family events described in the Family Events section.
ongoing	NECN Council Member	NECN is governed by a Council made up of a variety of community agencies, child care and early education providers, AND parents! We need the input of all kinds of parents—moms, dads, working parents, at-home parents, married parents, single parents, parents of multiples, parents who speak other languages or are new to our country, parents with children with special needs, adoptive parents, biological parents. We’re sure you fit in somewhere, and we’d love to have you join us for (almost) monthly Council meetings on Tuesday evenings. NO EXPERIENCE OF ANY KIND NECESSARY! If you are a parent, you are an “expert” in what NECN should be doing! Call Judy at: 508-655-2557.

Lottery Registration Form
 Phone/Voicemail: (508) 655-2557

Natick Early Childhood Network

... putting Children First



Mail/Walk-In: Natick Early Childhood Network,
179 Boden Lane, Natick, MA 01760

Registration lottery deadline: Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Please provide all requested information.

Parent name (s): _____

Phone number: _____

Child/children registering for these programs:

Name(s): _____

Date(s) of birth: _____

PARENT WORKSHOPS/PROGRAMS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toddler Talk | # of adults: ____; # for child care ____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wiggles, Waddlers & Warriors: Motor Development in the Young Child | # of adults: ____; # for child care ____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pediatric First Aid & CPR for Parents | # of adults: ____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Positive Parenting Series for Parents of Children PreK thru Kindergarten | # of adults: ____; # for child care ____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child's Play: Why Can't We All Just Get Along | # of adults: ____; # for child care ____ |

INTERGENERATIONAL GROUP

- Grandparents Playgroup March 9 **and/or** April 13 (Choose one or both!)

SATURDAY PLAYGROUPS

- Working Parents Playgroup March 13 **and/or** April 3 (Choose one or both!)
- Me & My Dad Playgroup March 20 **and/or** April 10 (Choose one or both!)

FAMILY EVENT

- Walk Into The Book # of adults: ____; # of children: ____
- A Day in the Life of a Preschooler # of adults: ____; # of children: ____

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.***
- ***PLEASE INDICATE A 2nd CHOICE IF YOUR CHILD IS AGE-ELIGIBLE FOR ANOTHER GROUP.***

- Monday Integrated Playgroup (18 – 30 months)
- Tuesday Toddler Talk (15 – 30 months)
- Pitter Patter Playgroup (18 – 24 months)

- Thursday Integrated Playgroup (18 – 30 months)
- Wonderful Ones Playgroup (12 – 18 months)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES (Your email address, please: _____)

- Playgroup Facilitator
- Event Volunteer
- NECN Council Member

We will make every effort to call you back within 3 working days of our lottery to confirm your registration.