

Natick Early Childhood Network

... putting Children First



May/June 2010 Activities

Registration lottery deadline: Wednesday, April 28, 2010

- Registration is required for all listed programs. Program lottery will be held on Thursday, April 29.
- 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
Tuesday May 11 7 – 8:30 pm	Preparing for Preschool (Complimentary childcare available.)	<i>Held at the Cole Center.</i> Don't miss this workshop if you have a child heading off to preschool for the first time in September! This seminar will equip you with tools to manage your child's first day jitters—and your own! Get tips about what to expect and how you can prepare over the summer and beyond for a smoother transition. Learn how to establish a positive and communicative relationship with your child's new teachers. Come role-play your worst drop-off nightmares and learn how to handle them with confidence. Presented by Early Childhood Educator & NECN parent Amy Hinrichs.
Wednesday June 2 7 – 8:30 pm	Preparing for Kindergarten Workshop and Small Group Discussion With Other NECN Parents Who Have Recently Made the Transition to Each of the 5 Natick Public Elementary Schools! (Complimentary childcare available.)	<i>Held at the Morse Institute Library, Lebowitz Meeting Hall (lower level).</i> Developed as a complement to the Natick Public Schools' supportive kindergarten transition activities, this parent workshop will provide additional ideas for best preparing your family for a smooth transition in the fall. Gain strategies to ease any pre-September anxiety in your child (and yourself!). Obtain a bibliography of children's literature to help your family establish positive expectations about the new school experience. Get tips for establishing supportive morning and evening routines, and for teaching your kindergartner the self-care skills he/she will need for navigating his/her new learning environment. Also, get strategies for establishing a positive and collaborative relationship with your child's teacher from the onset of the year. Facilitated by Leslie Schuh, Kindergarten Educator and Developmental Specialist. NOTE: Experienced community parents will be available for small-group, school-specific parent discussion in the final 30 minutes of the class!
Thursdays June 3 & 10 7 - 9 pm	Pediatric First Aid & CPR for Parents 2 Parts!	<i>Convenient Natick location to be announced!</i> For parents and caregivers 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.)

NEW Caregivers Playgroup

Date/Time	Title	Description
Tuesdays May 11 June 8 9:30 – 11 am	Grandparents & Caregivers Playgroup (children birth thru PreK with grandparent or other non-parent caregivers)	<i>Held at the Cole Center.</i> Join us as we continue and expand our monthly "chat and play" group originally just for grandparents with young grandchildren. We now extend the invitation to others who may be participating in the care of young children (other than the child's parents) —nannies, babysitters, family, friends and neighbors. Meet other grandparents and caregivers and talk about the joys and challenges of caring for young children. 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.

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Parent & Baby Programs

Date/Time	Title	Description
Tuesdays May 4 – June 22 12:30 – 2 pm	New Moms Chat (moms with newborns – pre-crawlers)	<i>Held at the Cole Center.</i> Bring your baby, and explore the world of infants with other new moms at this 8-session program facilitated by Maryann Cardani, LICSW, of Jewish Family Service of Metrowest. Engage in discussions about the rewarding, but demanding, transition to motherhood. Share what's working for you and gain new strategies to help you with what's not from other new moms who really understand! <i>NOTE: Final 2 sessions (6/15 & 6/22) are unfacilitated conversation groups.</i>

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

Date/Time	Title	Description
Fridays May 7 – June 25 11 am – 12:30 pm	Jeepers Creepers! Playgroup (children 6 – 12 months with parent)	<i>Held at the Cole Center.</i> A playgroup opportunity just for pre-walkers with a parent! Come explore the playroom in this 8-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 lunch from home—no peanut/nut products, please. Facilitated by NECN Program Coordinator Judy Dixon.
Wednesdays May 5 – June 23 9:30 – 11 am	Time for Twos Playgroup (children 24 – 34 months with parent)	<i>Held at the Cole Center.</i> This 8-session playgroup just for twos with a parent is a great opportunity to connect with others and to discuss the terrible and terrific twos with those who really understand. Children will enjoy: free play; multisensory activities and crafts; circle time including stories, songs and fingerplays; physical play in the Cole Center gym or out on the playground; and a snack brought from home—no peanut/nut products, please. Facilitated by NFN parent volunteers Pam Dratch and Hayley Sonneborn.
Mondays June 7 – August 30 NO CLASS July 5 OR Thursdays June 10 – September 2 9:30 – 11:30 am	<i>In collaboration with Criterion-Middlesex Early Intervention...</i> SUMMER Integrated Playgroup (children 18 – 30 months with caregiver; sorry, no siblings)	<i>Held at the Cole Center.</i> These 12-session groups each offer a play experience for 4 early intervention clients and 4 community children with their parents or caregivers. 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.

Saturday Playgroups

Date/Time	Title	Description
Saturdays May 8 w. music by Fran Friedman June 12 10:30 am - 12 noon	<i>In collaboration with Morse Institute Library...</i> Working Parents Playgroup (children birth thru PreK with adult)	<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.
Saturdays May 15 June 19 w. music by Jeff Thomas 10:30 am – 12 noon	<i>In collaboration with Morse Institute Library...</i> Me & My Dad: A Playgroup for Dads (children birth thru PreK with father/male caregiver)	<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.

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Family Events

Date/Time	Title	Description
<p>Saturday May 1 10 am – 12 noon</p>	<p><i>In collaboration with the Early Education & Care Community...</i></p> <p>A Day in the Life of a Preschooler</p> <p>(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 preschool educators and enrichment providers 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! PLUS, enjoy a ballet performance excerpt from Sleeping Beauty by the Community Dance Academy of the Walnut Hill School. Don't miss it!</p>
<p>Wednesday June 16 5:30 – 7:30 pm</p>	<p>10th Annual Family Appreciation Night: Let's Count: 1 - 10 with Children's Performer Judy Pancoast</p> <p>(ALL NFN/NECN families from the past decade are invited to join us!)</p>	<p><i>Held at the Cole Center.</i> Happy Birthday to US! We are reaching the end of our 10th program year in Natick, and it's time to celebrate our success and thank all of our families—participating since the fall of 2000—for their enthusiasm, participation AND support of each other. If you've EVER been a part of us or have NEVER been a part of us, we invite you to join us for this event. Get ready to party with the numbers 1 – 10 as you create crafts and play games designed to honor our years of service in the community. Make your own ice cream sundae (non-dairy, gluten-free alternatives available)! Sing and dance with children's performer Judy Pancoast!</p>

Fundraiser

Time Frame	Role	Description
<p>Thursday May 13 7 p.m.</p>	<p><i>In collaboration with Nicholas Restaurant...</i></p> <p>Moms' Night Out</p> <p>(ALL COMMUNITY MOMS!)</p>	<p>If you attended last year's event, we're sure you'll be back! This year we invite all moms of NECN and the larger Natick community for a night in celebration of motherhood. Join us at Nicholas Restaurant, 85 East Central Street, Natick, on Thursday, May 13, at 7 p.m. for an evening of appetizers, socializing, and a (simplified) raffle. Cash bar. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased in advance at the NECN office or from an event volunteer. Every ticket purchase includes 5 raffle tickets to be issued the night of the event!</p>

Volunteer Opportunities—Call 508-655-2557 or Email jdixon@accept.org to help out!

Time Frame	Role	Description
<p>May 1 June 16</p>	<p>Event Volunteer</p>	<p>Help with set-up, welcome and clean-up for the <i>Day in the Life of a Preschooler</i> and/or <i>10th Annual Family Appreciation Night</i> events described in the Family Events section.</p>
<p>ongoing</p>	<p>NECN Council Member</p>	<p>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.</p>

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Lottery Registration Form

Phone/Voicemail: (508) 655-2557

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

Registration lottery deadline: Wednesday, April 28, 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

- Preparing for Preschool # of adults: ____; # for child care ____
 Preparing for Kindergarten # of adults: ____; # for child care ____
 Pediatric First Aid & CPR for Parents # of adults: ____

GRANDPARENTS & CAREGIVERS GROUP

- Caregivers Playgroup May 11 **and/or** June 8 (Choose one or both!)

PARENT & BABY ACTIVITIES

- New Moms Chat

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.***

Jeepers Creepers (6 – 12 months)

Mon. Integrated Playgroup (18 – 30 months)

Time for TWOS (24 – 34 months)

Thurs. Integrated Playgroup (18 – 30 months)

SATURDAY PLAYGROUPS

Working Parents Playgroup May 8 **and/or** June 12 (Choose one or both!)

Me & My Dad Playgroup May 15 **and/or** June 19 (Choose one or both!)

FAMILY EVENTS

A Day in the Life of a Preschooler # of adults: ____; # of children: ____

10th Annual Family Appreciation Night # of adults: ____; # of children: ____

FUNDRAISING EVENT

Moms' Night Out (Tickets on sale at the NECN office. \$20/ticket includes 5 raffle tickets!)

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