

Connections

Natick Early Childhood Network



Its Time to Play Outside!

How Trips to the Playground Can Support Your Child's Development

We all know playing outdoors is fun for children, but it is also important to acknowledge the positive impact it has on their physical, social-emotional, and aesthetic development!

The great outdoors provides the most desirable environment for children to explore with *all* of their senses which provides them with a complete experience of their surroundings. Asking children questions while playing outdoors like "what do you hear?" or "do you think that tree trunk is smooth or rough?" will encourage them to engage their senses to learn about their environment.

Playing outdoors is also the most appropriate place for toddlers and preschoolers to practice and master physical skills like running, jumping and skipping. Wagons, trucks and other moveable toys are great for the development of manipulative skills like pushing and pulling and encourage children to use their imaginations.

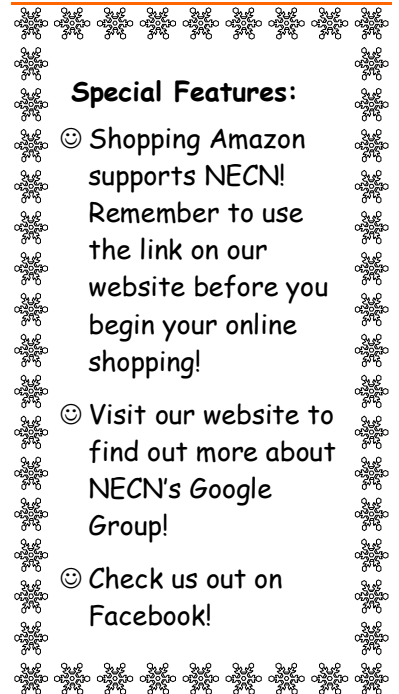
Children love inventing games with special rules and are more likely to do so outdoors. This allows children to be in control and learn about the world in their own way which promotes independence. While creating rules for their made-up games, children are teaching themselves about the importance of structure, organization, and team work if they are playing with others.

The more opportunities your child has to play outdoors and the more the adults in their lives encourage them to explore, children will develop an appreciation for nature and the natural beauty it has to offer! We hope you have many opportunities to share the outside world with your children this summer!

(Information from www.earlychildhoodnews.com, "Take It Outside" by: Rae Pica, Movement Education Consultant and Adjunct Professor at University of New Hampshire)

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ph: 508-655-2557
fx: 508-655-2753
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!

Natick Neighbors & Newcomers Group

Looking for a way to get to know others in your community? We are a community of families, singles, and empty nesters from Natick and the surrounding towns. Our organization undertakes a number of civic projects each year, and we offer many fun and exciting ways for families and adults to socialize with each other. Events include seasonal and holiday parties, children's activities and events, dinner night out, morning and evening book clubs, monthly trips to a specific destination w/lunch, and more. Come and join us!

For More Information:
southnaticknn@yahoo.com.
www.southnatickneighbors.com

Natick Center Farmer's Market

www.natickcenter.org

Enjoy fresh vegetables, fresh baked bread, homemade jewelry, fresh pasta and much, much more at the

Natick Center Farmer's Market!

**Held every Saturday on
The Common from 9a-1p**

Come visit NECN Program Coordinator, Lindsey Tarrant for free crafts and activities on

June 25, July 23, and August 27!



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LOCAL SUMMER HANG-OUTS

The Cole Center

179 Boden Lane, Natick
Playground with picnic tables;
restrooms available inside from 8a-5p Mon-Fri.

Loker Park

95 Walnut St, Natick
Playground with climbing walls, soccer field
and basketball court

Hunnewell Fields

Pleasant St, South Natick
Playground and baseball fields

Murphy Field

North Main St, Natick
Playground with softball and soccer fields
and basketball court

Navy Yard Field

Washington Ave, Natick
Playground with baseball and soccer fields
and basketball court

Coolidge Field/Woods

32 Sheridan St, Natick
Nature area with trails, softball fields and basketball court

Grove Park

Near Union St and Route 16 intersection, Natick
Picnic area and canoe landing

John L. Lane Park

Speen St, Natick
Picnic area with badminton, volleyball, and horseshoes, rest-
rooms available

Tony Anaballi Park at Pegan Cove

Entry from Washington Ave, Natick
Nature area with trails and a picnic area

Natick Town Forest

Entry off Oak St. near Rte. 9, Natick
Walking and bike trails

For map of locations visit www.natickma.gov, click Town
Depts->Recreation & Parks->Natick Recreational Map and
Facilities Guide



LOCAL SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Natick Recreation and Parks Department

Family Concert Series on the Common, Swim Lessons, Sports &
Playgroup Program (*Openings still available!*)
For More Information: 508-647-6530

Natick Community Organic Farm

Programs available for children starting at **3 years old**.
117 Eliot Street, Natick
www.natickfarm.org
For Information/Registration: 508-655-2204

Belkin Family Lookout Farm

Train rides, family fun activities and U-Pick; open weekends until
August 7, then every day through fall.
89 Pleasant Street South, South Natick
www.lookoutfarm.com
For More Information: 508-653-0653

Memorial Beach @ Dug Pond

(Managed by the Natick Rec & Parks Dept.)
Swim Lessons for ages 3 & up and beach tags for residents and
non-residents.
West Street, Natick
For More Information: 508-647-6530

The Center for Arts in Natick

Summer programs for 4-10 year olds.
14 Summer Street, Natick
For More Information: 508-647-0097

Summer Splash Integrated Preschool Program

M-Th 8:30-11:00a July 11- August 11; 5 sessions total.
Bennett-Hemenway Elementary School, 22 E. Evergreen Rd,
Natick. For More Information: 508-647-6500

Morse Institute Library

- Zoo, Aquarium, and Museum Passes for families at Circulation
Desk, or call 508-647-6520.
- Children's Library on lower level: stories, songs, crafts for ba-
bies through preschool with pre-registration at 508-647-6522.
Hours: M-Th 10a-9p, F 9a-5p, Sat 10a-2p, Sun Closed
14 East Central Street, Natick

RESOURCES FOR YOU!

Child Care Resource Center: (617) 547-1063
www.cercinc.org (linkage to state financial assistance for child care)

Criterion-Middlesex Early Intervention: (508) 620-1442
www.criterionchild.com/ei_mid.html
(for developmental evaluations and therapies)

Natick Public Schools: (508) 647-6500
www.natickps.org
(serves children w/special needs beginning at age 3 and provides
transitional support for incoming kindergartners)

Natick Family Child Care Association:
<http://natickfamilychildcare.vpweb.com>
(network of family child care providers, information about availability)

Massachusetts 2-1-1: www.mass211.org
(free access to health and human services information and referral)

A Special "Thank You!" to Our Wonderful Volunteers in FY11

Dear Natick Families,

Natick Early Childhood Network relies heavily on the support of parents, caregivers, and community members in the form donations and volunteer time. This year your generosity helped us to provide 11 parent/child playgroups, a literacy event , a holiday photo fundraiser, 4 quarterly newsletters, snacks and crafts for children attending our playgroup programs, and baby bags for new parents in Natick, among other things. It is your involvement and support that ensures our organization is strong and sustainable. We couldn't be more sincere when we say THANK YOU for all the time, energy, and money you have expended to help us provide quality services to you and other Natick families! In return, we hope that NECN has been able to offer you and your children new friends, community connections, support when needed, and, most importantly, many opportunities to smile and laugh together!

I would like to personally recognize all the following individuals, families, and organizations that made our programs this year possible:

John Armstrong	Krissy Fernandes	Ruchi Pathak	ACCEPT Education Collaborative
Josh Barnatt	Meena Gaikwad	Katya Rego	Barefoot Books
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Carolyn Boyce	Jamie Haverty	Bharti Sharma	Girl Scout Troop #77465
Catherine Burnell	Tien-Yiao Hsu	Kristy Showstead	Healthy Families
Gayun Chan	Kasia Jastrzebska	Angela Spivack	Morse Institute Library
Kelli Costello	Sarah Lovett	Melissa Stephens	Natick Service Council
Nicole Cowart	Holly McKean	Laura Topper	Readtogether
Michelle Crowe	David Noyes	Renee Vekiarides	SMOC Head Start and Child Care
Sally De'George	Maiko Obara	Carin Wall	The Church of Christ, Natick
Elise Eckelkamp	Karen O'Neill	Kristine Weddle	The Goddard School
Bethany Farnsworth	Kyla P'An	Tiffany Williams	The McCormack Family

Sincerely,
Lindsey Tarrant
Program Coordinator

