

# Connections

## Natick Early Childhood Network



Volume 11, Issue 2  
Winter 2011

ph: 508-655-2557  
fx: 508-655-2753  
www.natickearlychildhood.org

### Kiddies To Kindergarten!

(Natick Public Schools Kindergarten Timeline)

**January:** Natick Public Schools will contact you by mail with a kindergarten registration packet. (You were contacted by mail in November and asked to confirm your child's pre-registration status. If you haven't been contacted by your neighborhood elementary school, please call them. The pre-registration 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 on **Friday, May 20th.** 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/PTA 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 Natick Public Schools:

www.natickps.org

Click on District Info and scroll down to Kindergarten Registration.

Still have questions? Call Natick Public Schools at: 508-647-6500

**Special Features:**

- ☺ Shopping Amazon supports NECN! Remember to use the link on our website before you begin your online shopping!
- ☺ Getting your hands on a book is easy by shopping online at scholastic.com/bookclubs with NECN's class code: H7RBH.
- ☺ Visit our website to find out more about NECN's Google Group!
- ☺ FREE Transportation available upon request for NECN programs!

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#### SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, Natick Early Childhood Network will

cancel all programs for the day and evening when Natick Public Schools close. Check the local news for school closings or call NECN (508-655-2557) for a voicemail message regarding program cancellations.



#### HEALTH POLICY

If your child has a runny nose, cough, fever, nausea, or has been on prescription medication to treat a contagious illness for less than 24 hrs, please keep him/her

home. The best way for us to keep everyone healthy is to minimize exposure to illness. If you must miss a program due to illness or any other reason, please call NECN to let us know you are unable to attend.

## Come In From The Cold!

### Open Gym

**for Wobbly Walkers**  
Mondays 12:00-2:00p  
(walkers under age 3)

**for Everyone**  
Wednesdays 9:30-10:30a  
(all welcome)

**for Tykes**  
Fridays 9:30-11:30p  
(over age 3)

### Drop-In

**Mondays** 12:00-2:00p  
(Pre-Walkers Only!)

**Tuesday** 12:00-2:00p

**Wednesdays** 12:00-2:00p

**Thursdays** NONE

**Fridays** 11:30-2:30p

## Get Involved!

### Attention Community Members:

#### You are invited to join the NECN Council!

The NECN Council is a group of community organizations, parents, child care providers, and other members dedicated to supporting Natick families. The purpose of the council is to address perceived challenges in accessibility and availability of services through collaboration and to provide accountability to NECN. Together we can weave a network of quality opportunities for families in Natick. Please join us to become involved in initiatives such as fundraising and advocacy among others. Call 508-655-2557 for more information.

*"Discover why some of the richest people in the world are not millionaires, they are volunteers."*

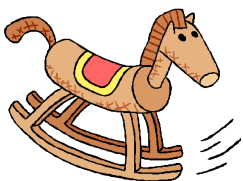
*~Anonymous*

*I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.*

*~Maya Angelou*

## Volunteer Team

Are you interested in volunteering but don't know how to get involved? Would you like to contribute ideas for future programs, family events, and fundraisers? Join NECN's volunteer team for an opportunity to lend a helping hand and contribute your creativity and special talents! Contact Lindsey Tarrant, Program Coordinator (508-655-2557) for information about meetings and to be put on the e-mail list.



### Winter Toy and Equipment SWAP

Friday, January 14th  
9:00a-3:00p

in the classroom across the hall from  
NECN.

Do you have gently used equipment and toys your child has outgrown? Are you looking for new things for your child? Bring a toy to take a toy! If you do not have a toy to bring a \$5 donation is suggested but not required.

*"Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere, clean up, clean up, everybody do your share!"*

*~ Barney, The Purple Dinosaur*

### A Note from the Program Coordinator:

NECN is thankful to have a space to offer Natick families to come play and mingle with others. We will continue to provide that opportunity this year in partnership with you. Maintaining our family center in a way that is safe and welcoming for you and your child can be time consuming for a small staff like ours. We have made specific places for toys in our playroom by labeling the shelves and bins they go in. You can help us by making sure toys go back where they belong.

Clean-up time is also a great lesson for children of all ages and can be helpful in preparing toddlers for smooth transitions. A suggestion for caregivers: give your children a 2-minute warning. Let them know they have 2 more minutes to play before they will have to help clean up and leave. Then, when it is time for clean-up show the children where the toys go and encourage them to help you. When they have put something away in its right spot reward them with a "Thank you!" and "Good job helping!" Of course, when children are helping tasks like this can become time consuming, but here at NECN we feel it is time well spent so leave yourself an extra few minutes to clean-up with your child.

Drop-in times are bound to get crowded this winter so if you leave before others, simply find a toy that is not being used and help your child find where it goes on the shelf. Your help cleaning up in the playroom will reduce missing pieces. I leave you with a few simple rules for drop-in:

- Always sign-in at the door.
- Snacks and drinks must stay at the round table.
- Attend to your child in moments of stress.
- Show children how to play with various toys and encourage them to play with others.
- Take part in clean-up before you leave.

Thank you for your help and cooperation!  
Please direct any questions to Pam or Lindsey in the office or at 508-655-2557.

Respectfully,  
Lindsey Tarrant  
Program Coordinator