



# Medford Family Network Newsletter

of the Medford Public Schools

Fall 2009

Welcome to a New Year...  
New Beginnings...  
New Opportunities!

**"How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives." Annie Dillard**

How are you spending your precious gift of time today? The Medford Family Network gives you opportunities to spend your time in optimal ways with your children and other parents by offering you playgroups, parenting education programs, drop-in playtime at the Family Center, family activities, support groups, information and referral services and leadership opportunities.

***There is a place for everyone here.***

### ***Praise When Praise is Due***

'Praising children in the service of happiness and self esteem has important benefits but it can become excessive. Children thrive on praise when it is sincere and connected to specific accomplishments, but they know when they've truly accomplished something. Too much praise connected to tiny accomplishments can make them wonder why adults need to always prop them up.'

**"Children who are praised too much also feel continually judged. Research by Carol Dweck, Ph.D., suggests that overly praised kids become more conscious of their image, more competitive, and more prone to cut others down. And too much praise can hook kids on it: they require higher and higher doses of compliments and feel like there's something wrong when they aren't being bombarded with kudos." Exchange Everyday, 9/16/09**

6<sup>th</sup> Annual

## **International Family Festival**

**Sunday, November 8**

**1:00 - 4:00 pm**

Springstep, 98 George Hassett Drive, Medford

Geared for families (who live or work in Medford) with children under 7. This will be an exciting afternoon of international music and dance performances, and musical instrument-making! A great opportunity to learn about world cultures while making new friends, and it's FREE! For more information and to register, please contact Marie Cassidy at (781) 393-2106.

## **Comedy Night Fundraiser**

**Thursday, November 5**

6:00 pm doors open; 7:00 pm pizza supper;  
8:00 pm comedy show

Prince Pizzeria, Route 1 South, Saugus

***All for the suggested low price of \$20.00 per person! Tickets include supper and show!***

For tickets, or to make a tax-deductible donation of a raffle item or gift certificate, please contact Stacia Miele at (781) 219-3119 or email the Friends of the MFN at [info@medfordfamilies.org](mailto:info@medfordfamilies.org)

## **Medford Family Network Family Center**

Medford High School

489 Winthrop Street, Medford, MA 02155

Phone: (781) 393-2106

Fax: (781) 393-2123

Email: [mcassidy@medford.k12.ma.us](mailto:mcassidy@medford.k12.ma.us)

Website: [www.medford.k12.ma.us](http://www.medford.k12.ma.us)

Marie Cassidy, Family Specialist

Heather Fuller, Program Aide

Dottie Palladino, Office Worker

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday; 8:00 am - 5:30 pm

You may leave a message at anytime on our voicemail or email.

# Parenting Education & Support Programs

Call the Medford Family Network at (781) 393-2106

\* Child Care Registration is required. Please call if you need transportation.

## Yoga & Mindful Parenting\*

*Facilitated by Judy Scribner-Moore*

**8 Wednesdays; Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28; Nov. 4, 18; Dec. 2, 9**      **9:30 - 11:15 AM**      **Location: MFN Family Center**

Push the Pause button rather than the Panic button. When we are able to take breaks from our frantic pace of modern living, we model for our children the value of maintaining self-regulation. Yoga exercises combined with parenting education and discussion. Handouts included.

Registration required

## Coffee, Conversation and Child Care\*

*Facilitated by Cathy Gulino*

**6 Mondays; Oct. 19, 26; Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23**      **9:30 - 11:00 AM**      **Location: MFN Family Center**

Come share your parenting stories, meet new people, learn from each other and enjoy some adult time. While you enjoy coffee, tea and conversation, your child(ren) will be cared for by the MFN Child Care staff. Each week, we will focus on topics agreed upon by the participants. Weekly handouts on these subjects will be distributed.

Registration required

## How to Talk So Kids Will Listen...Listen So Kids Will Talk\*

*Facilitated by Valerie Albanesi*

**7 Tuesdays; Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27; Nov. 3, 10, 17**      **7:00 - 8:30 PM**      **Location: MFN Family Center**

Explore a consistent and positive approach to communication with your children. Practice ways to help your children maximize their confidence, cooperation, respect and responsibility.

Registration required

## Mad...Bad...Sad!\*

*Facilitated by Debbie Weinstock-Savoy*

**Saturday, November 7**      **1:30 - 3:00 PM**      **Location: MFN Family Center**

Working Parents Group invites you to "Helping Young Children Deal with Strong Emotions". Come for a discussion on how to help children deal with feelings, such as anger & frustration, temper tantrums, disappointment & sadness, fears and worries.

Registration required

## English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)\*

*Facilitated by Ami Boardman and Michael Skorker*

**10 Tuesdays & Thursdays; Oct. 13 - Dec. 17**      **3:30 - 6:00 PM**      **Location: MFN Family Center**

ESOL is a program for Medford families who want to improve their English. Both Beginner and Intermediate classes are offered.

Registration required

## Grandparents and Others\*

*Facilitated by Arlene Wish*

**Every Thursday**      **10:00 - 11:30 AM**      **Location: MFN Family Center**

This support group provides an avenue for grandparents to meet others who are caring for their grandchild(ren) either on a full or part-time basis and to offer support, ideas, and compassion. We discuss issues of limit setting and other important child-rearing topics such as teaching children safety and empathy.

Registration required

## New Mom's Group\*

*Facilitated by Liz Katzman*

**Every Tuesday**      **10:00 - 11:30 AM**      **Location: MFN Family Center**

Are you a new mom? Would you like to join a group of others who know exactly what you mean by the word "tired"? Welcome to a great supportive network and a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends for yourself, and new playmates for your child!

Drop-in Format

## Life Transitions...Thriving After Divorce\*

*Facilitated by Marie Cassidy*

**Tuesday, September 29**      **6:30 - 7:30 PM**      **Location: MFN Family Center**

Several parents have asked that we form a group to address the needs and concerns of parents (male/female) who are starting over as single parents. Join us for dessert and a planning session to form this new network of support.

Registration requested

### **Sing-A-Lingo Spanish Playgroup** (Birth-36 mos)

*Facilitated by Pina Madera*      *Registration Required*

**8 Fridays; 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

**Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Nov. 6, 13, 20**

**Location: MFN Family Center**

Get ready to learn and sing in Spanish!! You will sing and move to music about day-to-day topics, so you can practice at home. A CD laminated song book and handouts will be provided.

### **Sing-A-Long with Penny Kohut** (Birth-36 mos)

*Led by Penny Kohut*      *Registration Required*

**3 Fridays; 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

**Oct. 2; Nov. 6; Dec. 4**

**Location: Medford Public Library**

Have lots of fun and enjoy singing, clapping and action with your baby and toddler! Sing-a-longs are for parents and their children from birth to 36 months. Sponsored by the Friends of the Public Library and the Medford Family Network.

### **Story Times** (Ages 2 - 5)      *Drop-in Format*

**Tuesdays; 10:00 AM      Sept. 22, 29; Oct. 6, 27**

**Wednesdays; 10:00 AM      Sept. 23, 30;**

**Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28; Nov. 4**

Come and listen to stories and make a simple craft. A child may attend only one story time each week.

### **Criterion Transition Group** (Ages 26-36 mos.)

*Led by Developmental Specialist, Criterion, Inc.*

**Thursdays; 9:30 - 11:15 AM**

**Sept. 24; Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Nov. 5, 12**

**Location: Criterion, 239 Commercial Street, Malden**

Parents will attend a separate group in the building with a Clinical Psychologist while the children attend a Toddler Group that will prepare them for transition to preschool. Activities include gross motor play, tabletop art, and circle time. Call (781) 321-0645 to register.

### **Criterion Infant & Baby Group** (Up to 18 mos)

*Led by Two (2) Developmental Specialists, Criterion, Inc.*

**Mondays; 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

**Sept 21, 28; Oct 5, 19, 26; Nov 2, 9, 16**

**Location: Criterion, 239 Commercial Street, Malden**

Provide you and your baby with a parent-child group experience. Meet other new moms and share the joys and challenges of this exciting time in your lives. Parenting issues will be discussed and information on community resources will be provided. Call (781) 321-0645 to register.

### **Tri-City EI Drop-off Group** (Ages 18 - 36 mos)

*Led by Developmental Specialist, Tri-City*

**Monday - Friday; 9:30 - 11:45 am (one day/week)**

**Beginning September 28 (parents drop off children)**

**Location: Tri-City, 43 Dartmouth Street, Malden**

Would you like a language-rich learning environment for your child? You may have some concerns or simply want to encourage the developmental process in these areas. Circle time, story sharing, finger plays, and specialized play. Call (781) 306-4822 to register.

# Ways to Play Together!

## Fall Playgroups

*Facilitated by "Miss Penny" Lynch*

### **...At the Family Center!**

**Yahoo Crew** (Ages 1-2); 1:00 - 2:30 pm

10 Tuesdays;

Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27; Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24; Dec. 1, 8

**OR**

10 Thursdays;

Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29; Nov. 5, 12, 19; Dec. 3, 10, 17

### **...At the Columbus School!**

**Kiddie Glee** (Ages 2-3); 9:00 - 11:00 am

10 Mondays; Oct. 5, 19, 26; Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30;

Dec. 7, 14

**OR**

10 Tuesdays; Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27;

Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24; Dec. 1, 8

**OR**

10 Fridays; Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30;

Nov. 6, 13, 20; Dec. 4, 11, 18

**Fun Galore** (Ages 3-4); 9:00 - 11:00 am

10 Wednesdays; Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28;

Nov. 4, 18, 25; Dec. 2, 9, 16

**OR**

10 Thursdays; Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29;

Nov. 5, 12, 19; Dec. 3, 10, 17

### **What will you do at Playgroup?**

Play! Sing! Read! Paint! Move! Laugh!  
Meet other families and learn new ways to have FUN with your kids! Receive Community Resource Information and handouts on parenting

### **Registration for Playgroups!**

Medford Family Network, 489 Winthrop Street, Medford, MA

Friday, September 18      9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Tuesday, September 22      9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Wednesday, September 23      12:00 pm to 7:00 pm

If you are unable to register during these times, please register by telephone only (no email, please) at (781) 393-2106

## **Fall Saturday Playgroups**

Facilitated by Linda Selinger, Kids Corner Child Care Center

**7 Saturdays; September 26; October 10, 24;**

**November 7, 21; December 5, 19**

Sign up for as many as you like!

### ***Laugh & Learn with Linda***

For Toddlers - 18 to 36 months

9:30 - 11:00 AM

**OR**

### ***Laugh, Learn & Light Lunch with Linda***

For 3, 4 & 5 year olds

11:30 am - 1:00 PM

Join Linda for a hands-on parent-child interactive playgroup that includes stories, fun activities, free play, circle time, music, and more! Snacks will be provided for both playgroups.

**Please call if you need transportation.**

Medford Family Network, 489 Winthrop Street, Medford, MA 02155

Registration Required! Call (781) 393-2106!

## ***"RAIN OR SHINE"***

On the green at the top of the hill

## **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Tufts Community Day**

Cosponsored with the cities of Medford and Somerville

**Sunday, September 27, 2009**

**11:00 am to 3:00 PM**

All are invited to a day of education, art, and family entertainment. All events, including lunch are FREE.

- \* Arts
- \* Music & Dance Performances
- \* Community Resources
- \* Pumpkin Painting
- \* Free Book Raffle
- \* Activities for children at the Medford Family Network Table!

For schedule of events, go to <http://cday.tufts.edu>

## **Community Health Fair**

**Saturday, October 3, 2009; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Tufts Park, South Medford, MA In case of rain, South Medford Fire Department

\* Fire Truck/Police Car

\* Face Painting

\* Children's activities and lots of health information at the Medford Family Network table

Participants include women, infants and children (WIC), Medford Health Matters (MHM), Visiting Nurse Association (VNA), Dads are Great! Committee of MFN, Medford Department of Public Health, Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Hallmark Health.

## **Children's Clothing, Toy & Equipment Swap Day**

**Saturday, November 21, 2009; 3:00 - 4:30 pm**

MFN Family Center

Do you live or work in Medford and have gently-used children's clothing, toys, small furniture? If so, this is a great opportunity to pass on outgrown items and to pick up something for your family. You do not need to bring items to get items. Please bring donations to MFN on Friday, November 20 **ONLY**.

For more details, please call (781) 393-2106.

# Family Activities

Call the Medford Family Network at (781) 393-2106

## Drop-In Playtime at the Family Center (Birth to age 5)

### September

Mondays	12:00 - 5:00 pm
Tuesdays	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesdays	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Thursdays	Noon - 5:00 pm
Fridays	11:00 am - 5:00 pm

### October/November/December

Mondays	3:00 - 5:00 pm
Tuesdays	9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Wednesdays	12:00 - 5:00 pm
Thursdays	Noon - 3:00 pm
Fridays	3:00 - 5:00 pm

Drop-in playtime at the Family Center is a wonderful opportunity to play and interact with your child. Come down and enjoy the company of other families with young children while playing in our large playroom. Books, puzzles, toys, blocks and more await you and your child.

Closed: Monday, October 12 (Columbus Day)      Wednesday, November 11 (Veterans Day)  
November 26, 27 (Thanksgiving Break)      December 21 - January 1 (Holiday Break)

## Farmers Market & Papa Gino's:

**2 Thursdays: Sept. 24; Oct. 22      2:30 - 5:00 pm**

Parent-child activities at the Medford Square Market include face painting, games, bubble play, open art area, free books, and community resource information. **Have dinner at Papa Gino's (Medford Square only) between 4:00 and 9:00 for dinner.** 20% of all food purchases will be donated to the MFN. Please bring the flyers that are available at the MFN table at the Market.

## Woodland Nature Walks (For 2.5 - 4 year olds)

## Registration required

Tuesday, Sept. 22	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Location: Breakheart Reservation, Saugus
Tuesday, Oct. 13	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Location: Breakheart Reservation, Saugus

Join the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Park Ranger as we take a slow half-mile walk in the wooded trails of Breakheart Reservation. Along the way we will talk about the animals and plants that live there, how they benefit from each other, why they are important to people and what we can do to help protect our natural resources. These hikes are not intended for strollers. The DCR has many family activities. Go to <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/> for more information, or call (781) 662-5214.

## Babes in the Woods:

Join others for a walk in the woods on Tuesdays, 10-11:30 AM, alternating weekly between strolls (can be done with a regular stroller) and hikes (harder terrain). Cancelled only if it is raining, snowing, or if roads are dangerous. Schedules are at the Family Network, on-line at [www.fells.org](http://www.fells.org), or by calling (781) 662-5214.

**Coming Soon! Literacy Kits Available To Take Home:** Literacy Kits contain toddler books, puzzles, and activities designed around topics such as the four seasons, community helpers, the hospital, zoo animals, transportation and more. We will also have a Music and Movement kit that is great for home playgroups and birthday parties. It includes music CDs, instruments, beanbags, and scarves.

**FREE Holiday Concert:** A 45-piece wind ensemble concert at the Chevalier Theatre, Friday, December 4, 5:00 PM. Call the Chamber of Commerce at (781) 396-1277 for further details.

**Victorian Stroll:** Thursday, December 3; 5:00 PM, Medford Square. We will have Victorian children's games and activities planned. There will be a children's choir at 5:30 on the steps of the Brookline Bank, Riverside Avenue, Medford.

# Community Parent Education & Support Programs

Call the Medford Family Network (781) 393-2106

## **Fathers, Disciplines & Preschoolers**

## **Registration Required**

*Facilitated by Rebekah Levine Coley, Boston College*

**Friday, November 13**

**10:00 am to 12:00 noon**

**Location: Children's Trust Fund, Boston**

Latest research shows how nurturing discipline from dads and men in a fathering role results in the most positive outcomes for children. This workshop is free and all attendees will receive handouts. Please direct all questions to Haji Shearer, Director of the Fatherhood Initiative, via phone at (617) 502-8755 or email at [hshearer@mctf.state.ma.us](mailto:hshearer@mctf.state.ma.us)

## **Council of Social Concern Parenting Class:**

## **Registration Required**

**6 Wednesdays; September 23 – October 28**

**6:00 to 7:00 PM**

**Location: 2 Merrimac Street, Woburn**

Family Skill Building Program provides parenting education and support services to help parents enhance their parenting skills and deal with significant parenting challenges. This group is for parents of children up to the age of 12 years who are actively parenting their children. There is no fee, space is limited.

## **The Babysitting Exchange**

We are starting a new group of families who use a system of barter for child care. If you are interested in an orientation and training, please call Marie Cassidy at (781) 393-2106.

**WIC:** Are you struggling to meet your weekly food bill? Are you a new mom on unpaid maternity leave? Has your family recently experienced a reduction in work hours or job loss? You might be eligible for WIC benefits. WIC is a health and nutrition program sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Department of Agriculture. Contact the Malden office at (781) 338-7578 or the Medford office at (781) 338-7578 to see if you are eligible.

**Freebie Foyer:** Available items include books, gently-used maternity and infant clothing (to size 6), diapers and baby essentials. If you are in need of a helping hand, call 781-393-2106 or visit the Freebie Foyer in the MFN Family Center.

## **Local Food Pantries in Medford:**

Community Cupboard Food Pantry at Unitarian Universalist Church (781) 396-4549, Thursdays; 6:00 to 7:30 PM

Saint Francis Food Pantry (781) 396-3400, Thursdays; 3:00 to 4:30 PM

Shiloh Baptist Church (781) 483-8850, Every Second Tuesday; 6:00 to 7:00 PM; Every Third Saturday; 10:00 to 11:00 AM

First Evangelical Church of Holiness (781) 391-1443, Last Saturday of each month

**Visiting Moms-Support for New Moms:** Visiting moms is a free program for mothers who are struggling with the adjustment to an expanding family. A trained Visiting Mom volunteer will come to your home for up to two hours a week for the first months of infancy or up until baby's first birthday. This program is offered by the Center for Early Relationship Support, a nonsectarian program of Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Boston. For more information call (781) 647-5327.

**Parents Helping Parents:** Are you a parent feeling overwhelmed, isolated or stressed? Several local groups, including Malden, are facilitated by trained volunteers, who provide a place for support, sharing, and encouragement with other parents with similar concerns. Call 1-800-882-1250 or visit [www.parentshelpingparents.org](http://www.parentshelpingparents.org) 24-hour Parental Stress Line 1-800-632-8188.

**Massachusetts "211":** A new resource available to families both on-line and via phone is the "MA 211" information center. This service will assist you with finding information about resources available in the Medford area. Go to <http://www.mass211.org> or dial "211" for assistance.

## **Check out these helpful websites:**

[www.onetoughjob.org](http://www.onetoughjob.org) - free access to health and human services information and referral

[www.bostoncentral.com](http://www.bostoncentral.com) - family fun in surrounding areas

[www.ica.org](http://www.ica.org) - monthly playgroups at the Institute of Contemporary Art

Medford Family Network \* 489 Winthrop Street, Medford, MA 02155 \* (781) 393-2106 \* [www.medford.k12.ma.us](http://www.medford.k12.ma.us)

## Parent Leadership Opportunities

*Be a part of the MFN!*

### **Friends of the Medford Family Network (FMFN)**

Would you enjoy working on a team that plans and holds fundraising events to support family programs in Medford? The FMFN is looking for parents to join this active task-focused group dedicated to ensuring that funding is available for the programs, activities, and events that you care about. Check out their website at: [www.medfordfamilies.org](http://www.medfordfamilies.org).

Call Kristy Bonaventura, FMFN President, at (781) 760-9781.

### **Medford Family Resource Coalition (MFRC)**

Does participating in a citywide group of concerned citizens that oversees the programs of the Early Childhood Department interest you? The MFRC Council promotes the unique development of children, youth and families through school and community programs that are designed to emphasize prevention; encourage education, family involvement and leadership; and enhance the physical and social emotional health and self-confidence of residents in the community.

Call Shelley Gross, Early Childhood Director, at (781) 393-2211.

### **MFN Advisory Board**

We need 4 parents and/or caregivers to be our "eyes and ears" to ensure we are aware of the needs of Medford's families with young children. This year's focus: Dads are Great!, Legislative Action, Newsletter/Publicity committees; Outreach Ambassador program; and Program Evaluation.

Call Marie Cassidy, Family Specialist, at (781) 393-2106.

### **Other Volunteer Opportunities**

International Family Festival Volunteers (November 2009)

Newsletter Citywide Distribution Volunteers

Swap Day Volunteers

Storytellers during Drop-in Playtime

Please call Marie Cassidy at (781) 393-2106

## **Network News**

**Transportation Options:** If you need information on bus routes that have stops near our program or need transportation, please call Marie Cassidy at (781) 393-2106.

**Lending Library News:** Browse through our library covering a variety of parenting topics. Please stop by the Family Center to check out books you would like to take home. Books can be kept for two weeks.

**Childcare and Preschool Information:** We have a list of at least 11 licensed childcare providers and public school preschools in Medford. For additional information regarding these programs, check out [www.eec.state.ma.us](http://www.eec.state.ma.us)

**Screening for Preschool Children:** Medford Public Schools offers monthly screening for preschool children ages 3 to 5. If you are concerned with your child's development, please contact Suzanne MacEachern at (781) 393-2381.

**What is the MFN Family Network?** The Medford Family Network of the Medford Public Schools is a universal (everyone welcome) parenting education and family support program focusing on the positive impact on the developmental process of children prenatal to age 7, and supporting the families who care for them. This is accomplished through parenting education workshops; discussion groups; age-specific playgroups; new moms groups; home visitation; family events; a lending library; a family resource/drop-in center; informational and referral services; and family literacy initiative. There are programs for single parents, parents who speak languages other than English, working parents, at-home parents, and dads. Programs are held at a variety of sites around the city - weekdays, evenings and weekends. Many are co-sponsored with other family-serving agencies. Parent advisory and leadership roles are available and encouraged. All adults who live or work in Medford and caring for young children are welcome!

**Information & Referral Services:** If you have questions or concerns about your child(ren), or family, or want to know about community resources, you can always call on the Medford Family Network. Our role is to listen and help you find the information you need. Stop by the MFN Family Center at the Medford High School or call us at (781) 393-2106. We can make appointments to meet with you at the center, in another location, or just take some time to talk on the phone. Please let us know what is important for the healthy growth and development of you and your family. We are here to make a difference...and you are the one who can make that happen!

**Sick Policy:** General Health Guidelines, Influenza Guidelines and information on Universal Precautions used by the MFN and the Medford Public Schools are available at the Family Center and at all playgroups at the Columbus School. Highlights of the guidelines are as follows: please delay your visit to the Family Center or playgroup if you or your child has any of the following: anything other than clear discharge from the nose; a temperature (over 99.6), diarrhea, vomiting, or an infection in the last 24 hours; children should be fever free for 24 hours; any rash of unknown cause or that is blistered or has discharge. Note: The fever-free period *must* be without the use of fever-reducing medicines, eg., Motrin, Tylenol.

**Snow Policy:** All programs of the Medford Family Network that are held during the week will be closed on the days and evenings the Medford Public Schools are closed. Announcements about closings will be made on 1030 AM radio and Channels 4, 5 and 7 on television. In the event of cancellations or a mid-day storm, a message will be left on the MFN voice mail. All registered participants will receive notification of re-scheduled dates. For those programs occurring on Saturdays, please call the Network at (781) 393-2106 for any closures or changes in programming, including those due to inclement weather.

**Wish List:** Hand sanitizer, Anywhere Clorox Spray, tissues, baby wipes, paper towels, gift cards to Target, Learning Tree, local supermarkets.

## A FRIEND TO KNOW...A PLACE TO GROW!

MEDFORD FAMILY NETWORK  
MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL  
489 WINTHROP STREET  
MEDFORD, MA 02155

Medford Family Network is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, the Children's Trust Fund, the Friends of the Medford Family Network Corp., and the generous donations from our families and friends.