



Medford Family Network Newsletter

of the Medford Public Schools

A Friend to Know...a Place to Grow!

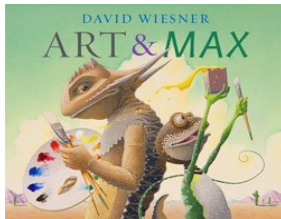
Spring 2014

The Medford Family Network and the Friends of the Medford Public Library present...

A Story Walk with Sam Sednek

Art and Max

Author, David Wiesner



Wednesday, April 23, 2014

11:00 am—12:00 pm

Location: Starts at Century Bank & Trust
55 High Street, Medford

Join Children's Librarian, Sam Sednek, as she leads us on the Story Walk through Medford Square. We will read *Art and Max*, this year's choice by the Medford Public Library as part of their annual Community Read program (www.medfordlibrary.org). Pages of the book will be on display in several merchants' windows. The last page will be located at the Children's Department of the Medford Public Library where there will be a surprise ending.

Snacks and more surprises will be inside!

Call the Medford Family Network at (781) 393-2106
Registration is recommended but not required.

Medford Family Network Family Center

Medford High School
489 Winthrop Street, Medford, MA 02155
Phone: (781) 393-2106
Fax: (781) 393-2123

Email: mccassidy@medford.k12.ma.us
Website: [medfordfamilynetwork.org](http://www.medfordfamilynetwork.org)
Http://www.medfordfamilies.org

Find Us On Facebook -
Medford Family Network

Marie Cassidy, Family Support Coordinator
Heather Fuller, Program Aide

Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm (Monday—Friday)

* Casa necessite de um interprete para traduzir esta informacao, e favor contatar o escritorio de ELL no seguinte numero:
781-393-2348.

* Si un Interprete es necesitado para traducir esta informacion, por favor contacta la oficina de ELL en numero:
781-393-2348.

* Si w bezwen yo Entepret pou tradui enfomasyon sa a pou wou, souple rele biwo ELL nan nimewo sa a:
781-393-2348.



Annual Teddy Bear Picnic!



Friday, June 20, 2014
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

OR

Saturday, June 21, 2014
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location: Victory Park, Winthrop Street, Medford

Featuring...Knucklebones Gymnastics Play!

Parachute Play! Face Painting! Games!
Bubbles! Hula Hoops! Sing-a-Long!
Obstacle Course! Crafts with Recyclables!

Teddy Bear Parade! Bring your favorite Teddy or any "Lovie!" Pack a picnic! Bring a blanket! Enjoy the fun! **Registration is Required! (781) 393-2106!**

Let us know which day you will attend!

Call for directions and/or transportation options

In Case of Rain We Will Play Inside the Front Foyer of the Medford High School!

Haitian Flag Day!

In collaboration with Medford Housing Authority, City of Medford and City of Cambridge Offices of Human Diversity, Students of MFN ESOL classes, and Medford High School Haitian Students



Saturday, May 17, 2014
3:00—6:00 pm

Location: MFN Family Center, 489 Winthrop Street, Medford

Join us for an afternoon of family celebration including music, Haitian food, children's activities, resource and information tables, and Haitian cultural displays.

Call (781) 393-2106 to register and for transportation options.

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



New Mom's Group

Facilitated by Aine O'Malley, Parent Leader, JF&CS

Every Wednesday

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!

12:00—1:30 pm

Drop-in Format

Location: MFN Family Center

Grandparents Support Group WITH CHILD CARE

4 Thursdays; May 1, 8; June 5, 12 *(Facilitated by Peg Murphy, PhD)* **9:30—11:00 am**

5 Thursdays; May 15, 22, 29; June 19, 26 *(Facilitated by Becky Sarah, MPH)* **9:30—11:00 am**

Welcome grandparents! This special program is designed for you—you who plays a special role in the lives of your grandchild(ren). Experienced facilitators will lead this group. Come by for coffee, great conversation and caring support.

Registration Required

Location: MFN Family Center

Location: MFN Family Center

Help Me Grow Program—Ages & Stages Questionnaires!

This screening program enables parents to monitor their child's growth and development—cognitively, physically, emotionally, and socially. Your child has every opportunity for optimal growth. Call the MFN for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Babies, Bibs & Books Program (FREE Gift Bag for first-time moms/dads)

This is a literacy program designed to introduce the importance and joy of reading to your baby. The MFN is distributing FREE gift bags to first-time moms and dads who live or work in Medford. These bags include a Board Book, bib, MFN's newsletter, Medford Community Directory, and general developmental information and activities to help your baby learn and grow. Call for yours today!



Parenting Today! Programs
Call the Medford Family Network at (781) 393-2106
to register, child care and/or transportation options.



Helping Young Children Deal with Strong Emotions

Facilitated by Debbie Weinstock-Savoy, MFN Parent Educator

4 Mondays; April 28; May 5, 12, 19

Call it Mad! Call it Sad! Call it Bad! In any case, children have feelings and effective parenting helps them learn how to communicate and deal with them. We will discuss activities and communication styles that will help support children's healthy social and emotional development.

3:00—4:30 pm

Registration Required

Location: MFN Family Center

Financial Literacy

Monday, April 28—Gain Control of Finances/Credit Score

Facilitated by Tony Bennett, Trained Certified Counselor with Primerica

This workshop will include complimentary Financial Needs Analysis (FNA) as well as ideas on paying down debt effectively and more quickly. "Forever change the way you think about and manage your money." *Primerica*

Monday, May 5—What's in your Financial Tool Kit?

Facilitated by Marie Cassidy, MFN Family Support Coordinator, and Lisa Tonello, Program Manager, ROSS Grant

This workshop will focus on a variety of games and activities with resource packets to help you identify your financial priorities.

7:00—8:30 pm

Registration Required

Location: MFN Family Center

Location: Medford Housing

Parent Café Follow Up—5 Languages of Love! For Couples Only!

Facilitated by Debbie Weinstock Savoy, MFN Parent Educator

4 Wednesdays;

April 30; May 7, 21, 28

Thanks to the great feedback from our parents we are happy to offer these four new workshops about managing your role as a partner, a person, and a parent. Join us as we explore ways to improve and strengthen the relationships with those closest to us. This is a program for couples only.

6:30—7:00 pm (Light dinner)

7:00—8:30 pm (Workshop)

Registration Required

Location: MFN Family Center

"Spring Cleaning" for Parents—Stress Reduction Techniques

Facilitated by Judy Scribner-Moore, MFN Parent Educator

4 Wednesdays; May 7, 14, 21, 28

The focus of this workshop will be to free ourselves from negative patterns to experience the joys of parenting. This workshop will include selected readings, conversations, and yoga and meditation exercises. The goal will be to learn and model healthy responses to stress.

3:00—4:00 pm

Registration Required

Location: MFN Family Center

A Discussion on Raising Sexually Healthy Kids & Talking to Them about Sex

Facilitated by Carita Anderson, PhD, Clinical Psychologist

Wednesday, May 14

As our kids grow from children into young adults their sexuality evolves, too. Knowing how to talk about the physical and emotional changes that accompany this growth is key to helping them make informed decisions. Let's explore ways to clarify our own values, ways to share them and learn ways to talk to our kids and be comfortable answering their questions. For parents of children 0—6.

7:00—8:30 pm

Registration Required

Location: MFN Family Center



TRAVELING PLAYGROUPS IN THE PARK

FACILITATED BY "MISS ANDREA" BREEN, PLAYGROUP LEADER

ALL PLAYGROUPS ARE FREE FOR FAMILIES WHO LIVE/WORK IN MEDFORD!
PLEASE REGISTER AT THE PARK EACH DAY YOU ATTEND.

May/June
9:30—11:30 am

Mondays

May 5 (Harris)
May 12 (Carr)
May 19 (Magoun)
June 2 (Barry)
June 9 (Cummings)
June 16 (Playstead)
June 23 (Tufts)
June 30 (Victory)

Tuesdays

May 6 (Cummings)
May 13 (Capen)
May 20 (Tufts)
May 27 (Hickey)
June 3 (Barry)
June 10 (Dugger)
June 17 (Carr)
June 24 (Logan)

Wednesdays

May 7 (Barry)
May 14 (Playstead)
May 21 (Cummings)
May 28 (Victory)
June 4 (Tufts)
June 11 (Hickey)
June 18 (Harris)
June 25 (Capen)

Thursdays

May 8 (Capen)
May 15 (Tufts)
May 22 (Harris)
May 29 (Dugger)
June 5 (Playstead)
June 12 (Barry)
June 19 (Logan)
June 26 (Magoun)

Fridays

May 9 (Dugger)
May 16 (Harris)
May 23 (Capen)
May 30 (Logan)
June 6 (Carr)
June 13 (Cummings)
June 20 (Victory)
June 27 (Playstead)

Bubbles! Balls! Art Activities!
Parachute Play! Storytelling! Songs!
Summer Fun Activity and Community Resource Information!



If it is NOT pouring, we are playing!
If it IS raining, please call the MFN at (781) 393-2106 to find out if we will be at the park!

Pack a snack and a beverage! Bring sunscreen!
We will have a First Aid kit for emergencies!

Please call the MFN regarding transportation options and/or directions.
Call (617) 222-3200 or visit www.mbta.com for bus information!

Ways to Play Together!

Babes in the Woods

Sponsored by *the Friends of the Middlesex Fells*

Storybook Self-Guided Walk:

April 19—27

Location: Starts at the Greenwood Parking Lot

This family activity features a children's book *Over in the Forest* by Marianne Berkes. Children and their parents will read laminated pages of the book posted along the trail. Directions will be posted adjacent to the Botume House, 4 Woodland Road, Stoneham.

Contact the Friends of the Middlesex Fells for more information by calling (781) 662-2340 or visiting www.fells.org.



Courtyard Kids Play and Learn Group

Facilitated by *Laura Ingano, MFN Parent Leader*

2 Fridays;

May 16; June 27

10:00—11:30 am

Location: Courtyard Nursing Care Center,
200 Governors Avenue, Medford

Intergenerational play and learn group with residents of the Courtyard Nursing Care Center. Interactive activities includes songs, dances, ball play, bubbles, story time, and snack. **Call the MFN to register for one, two or both!**

Children will receive a gift and a snack from the Courtyard Nursing Care Center staff.



Circle the Square

Sponsored by *CACHE*
(Coalition for Arts, Culture and a
Healthy Economy)

Thursday, June 19

4:00—7:00 pm

Location: Green of City Hall

Don't miss the first of 3 special citywide events on the third Thursday of June, July and August!

June's Theme is "Think Green"!

The Medford Family Network is featuring
Knucklebones...for the love of play!
Activities are appropriate for children birth-6.

There will also be other games and activities.
Free books for all ages.

To learn more, visit www.circlethesquare.org

Drop-in format

4

Drop-in Playtime Schedule

at the Family Center!

Parents, Caregivers, Guardians welcome!

April 2014

Monday	2:00—5:00 pm (closed 4/21, 4/28)
Tuesday	No Drop-ins (except 4/22 see below)
Wednesday	No Drop-ins (except 4/23 see below)
Thursday	No Drop-ins (except 4/24 see below)
Friday	2:00—5:00 pm (except 4/25 see below) No Drop-ins (closed 4/18)

April Vacation 2014

Monday, April 21	Closed
Tuesday, April 22	9:00 am—1:00 pm
Wednesday, April 23	9:00 am—1:00 pm
Thursday, April 24	9:00 am—1:00 pm
Friday, April 25	9:00 am—1:00 pm

May 2014

Monday	9:00 am— 2:30 pm (closed 5/26)
Tuesday	9:00 am— 2:30 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am—12:00 pm 1:30 pm— 2:30 pm
Thursday	11:00 am— 2:30 pm
Friday	9:00 am— 5:00 pm

June 2014

Monday	9:00 am— 5:00 pm
Tuesday	9:00 am— 2:30 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am—12:00 pm 1:30 pm— 5:00 pm
Thursday	11:00 am— 2:30 pm
Friday	9:00 am— 5:00 pm (No Drop-in, 6/6)

Sign in all family members when you arrive each day!

What is Drop-in Playtime?

This is a wonderful opportunity to play and interact with your child. Come and enjoy the company of other families with young children while playing in our large playroom. Books, puzzles, toys, blocks, and more! For ages 0—6.

Babes in the Woods

Sponsored by *the Friends of the Middlesex Fells*

Hike & Seeks

(Nature-themed scavenger hunts)

Tuesdays; 10:00—10:45 am

Location: Varies

Babes Hikes

(For parents who carry their children)

Tuesdays; 11:00 am—12:00 pm

Location: Varies

Contact the Friends of the Middlesex Fells for more information by calling (781) 662-2340 or visiting www.fells.org.



Special MFN Programming!

Please call (781) 393-2106 with questions!

Book Club

For 3rd and 4th Graders

Sponsored by *the Medford Public Library, Bestsellers Café, and the Medford Family Network*



2 Wednesdays;
April 23; May 28
6:30—7:30 pm

Location: Medford Public Library,
111 High Street

April Book—Blue Balliett's *Chasing Vermeer*

May Book—Sy Montgomery's *Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot*

Both students and their parents are invited to join this monthly book club. **Drop-in format.**

Dads are Great! Program and Family Fun Nights

Facilitated by *Cindy Sabbag and Bernadette Kennedy*
(For Ages 2—8)



2 Fridays;
April 25; May 23
6:00—8:00 pm

Location: Medford High School Gym, Cages 1 & 2

We welcome Dads and those in a fathering role and, of course, all family members are invited, too!

Scooter boards, hula hoops, parachute play, ball toss-throughs, balance beam, music and movement, and a special fun finale!

Call (781) 393-2106 to register!

A Special Invitation to Join Us for a...

Legislative Breakfast

Friday, May 2
9:00—10:00 am

Location: MFN Family Center, 489 Winthrop Street

In attendance will be:

Senator Patricia D. Jehlen
State Representative Paul J. Donato
State Representative Sean Garballey

Agenda

9:00 am—Welcome and Introductions
9:15 am—Continental Breakfast
9:45 am—Presentations by Parent Leaders, Grandparents, Medford Housing Staff, ESOL Students

If you plan to attend, please call the MFN to register!



Character Breakfast with Curious George!

Sponsored by
The Greater Boston Reading Council

Saturday, May 3
9:30—11:00 am

Location: McGlynn Elementary School Cafeteria,
3002 Mystic Valley Parkway, Medford

Bananas! Yogurt! Juice!
Face Painting! Have your picture taken!
FREE Books for Children and Literacy Packets
for Caregivers!

Registration is Required!

Call (781) 393-2106

Call for directions and/or transportation options!

Swap Day

Hosted by Tamar Siegel, MFN Parent Leader, and her team of "Volunteer Swapettes"

[Please be thoughtful and only come if you live or work in Medford]

You do not need to donate in order to take items.

Sunday, June 1
3:00—4:30 pm

Location: Temple Shalom Auditorium, 475 Winthrop Street, Medford

—Suggested donation of \$1.00 per family at the door—

What can I donate? What can I receive? Gently-used clothing for infants, toddlers, kids, tweens/teens; gently-used clean toys, books, music and movies; baby equipment (*no stuffed animals, cribs or car seats*); donations must be small enough to carry; maternity wear (*no other adult clothing*).

Contact Tamar Siegel at rtsiegel@comcast.net or call the MFN at (781) 393-2106 with questions.

Drop off your donations at: the MFN Family Center, 489 Winthrop Street, on Friday, May 30 between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm ONLY, or on the porch of 155 Forest Street anytime between Monday, May 26 & Saturday, May 31.

Resources at the Family Center

Please Call (781) 393-2106!

Freebie Foyer—Come by and check out our FREE gently-used items including books, maternity wear, infant and children's clothing, and baby essentials. Please bring all donated items to the MFN Office! **Do not just drop in the Freebie Foyer.** We check each item for safety and appropriateness. Also, feel free to give us a call at (781) 393-2106 if you need a particular item.

Lost & Found

We will hold lost/misplaced items for one month in the Lost & Found basket, located at the sign-in desk. If appropriate, we will donate any unclaimed items to a local charity or add to the Freebie Foyer. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have lost a particular item.

Lending Library

We are looking for suggestions for parenting and children's books to purchase for our Lending Library. Please call (781) 393-2106 with your favorite titles. Beginning in September 2014, we will feature a different author or illustrator of recommended parenting and children's books on a monthly basis. The library will also include brief articles from sources such as parenting magazines.

This is What I Have...This is What I Need

If you have large items you would like to move along or need something in particular, you can now host these items on the silver magnetic board in the Parent Resource area called "This is What I Have...This is What I Need". Index cards will be available for you to complete and post on these boards for up to 2 months. Please be sure to date each card and leave your contact information.

Medford Public School Information

Visit www.medford.k12.ma.us

Medford Public Schools Early Childhood/Afterschool Office

The Early Childhood Office is a local point of entry. Parents/guardians can call the office at (781) 393-2102 to find out information about quality early education and care and summer programs. The office can assist with placing eligible families on the Department of Early Education and Care centralized wait list for child care—infant, toddler, preschool, and school age.

Medford Public Schools Afterschool Program 2014-15 for Children Kindergarten through Grade 5

Full-time (Monday to Friday) or Part-time (2, 3 or 4 day options)

Registration began April 1, 2014. To receive an application or for more information, please contact Cheryl Alpers at (781) 393-2102 or calpers@medford.k12.ma.us.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2014-15 School Year

Kindergarten enrollment is for children who will be five (5) years of age by August 31, 2014. **Registration is held at the Parent Information Center located in the main lobby of the Medford High School (489 Winthrop Street).** Hours are 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 to 2:30 pm. Visit www.medford.k12.ma.us for more information or call (781) 393-2132.

Building Bridges to Kindergarten

Thursday, May 1

7:00 - 8:00 pm

Registration Required

Location: Columbus School, 37 Hicks Avenue

Informational meeting for parents and families of incoming Kindergarteners! Come for Kindergarten overview and highlights and question and answer opportunities. Requests for child care/interpreters must be received by April 29. Please call (781) 393-2102.

Make Way For Kids Preschool Openings for Next School Year 2014-15

Tuesdays/Thursdays (3 yr olds)

12:25 pm—2:20 pm

Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays (4 yr olds)

9:00 am—11:30 am

Children must be 3 and 4 years old by August 31, 2014. This program provides a safe and warm environment where children learn through play. Contact Michele Farquharson at (781) 393-2210 for more information.

Medford Early Education Program (MEEP) Preschool Openings for this Year—Sign up Today!

The MEEP Program of the Medford Public Schools is an integrated preschool experience for children with and without disabilities. Onsite therapists for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). For more information or with questions, please contact Suzanne MacEachern at (781) 393-2381 or smaceachern@medford.k12.ma.us.

Medford Community Directory for Families with Young Children

We are pleased to announce that an updated version of the directory is now available online at www.medford.k12.ma.us. Hard copies should be available sometime in May.

Medford Early Education Program (MEEP) Preschool Screening—Call for an Appointment!

Monday, May 19

Preschool screening is an opportunity to have your child's development assessed by the Medford Early Education Program staff. Results will be discussed with parents on the day of the screening and recommendations will be provided. If interested, please contact Suzanne MacEachern at (781) 393-2381.

Community Resources

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

Local Food Pantries in Medford

Community Cupboard at Unitarian Universalist Church (781) 396-4549 (Every Thursday; 6:00 to 7:30 pm)

Saint Francis Food Pantry (781) 396-3400 (Every Thursday; 3:00 to 4:30 pm)

Bread of Life (781) 397-0404; 54 Eastern Avenue, Malden (Wednesdays; 4:00 - 6:00 pm; Fridays; 2:00 - 4:00 pm)

WIC

WIC is a health and nutrition program sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Contact the Malden office at (781) 338-7578 or visit www.mass.gov/wic to see if you are eligible.

Mobile Food Market at WIC

2nd Saturday of each month

1:00—2:00 pm

Donations will consist of fresh produce, dairy products and other refrigerated food items. Please bring a grocery cart or reusable shopping bag to transport food home. Call (781) 338-7568.

Registration Required

Location: 239 Commercial St, Malden

Sharewood Project—A FREE Health Care Organization

Every Tuesday

6:00—8:00 pm

Location: 184 Pleasant Street, Malden

This project offers free, unscheduled healthcare including clinical, case management, laboratory and other types of health care. For more information, please call (781) 324-8991 or visit www.sharewood.tufts.edu

EMARC, Inc.

EMARC serves individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The Family Resource Center and Recreation Center offer assistance to parents and other primary caregivers in their efforts to provide care in the home and community. For more information, contact Judy SantaMaria at (781) 942-4888 x2314 or visit www.themarc.org.

Medford Little League (\$)

For more information, check out the website at www.medfordlittleleague.com.

Sing-A-Longs with Liza Kitchell

Thursdays; April 17; May 15; June 26

10:00 am

Drop-in Format

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 children.

Smart911, File of Life, Connect CTY Informational Meeting

Wednesday, April 23

6:00—7:00 pm

Drop-in Format

Location: City Hall, Medford

The City of Medford Police Department, as part of the “Emergency Preparedness Working Group” would like to let you know about these great initiatives by offering an informational meeting to explain these incredible programs.

Mystic River Spring Cleanup

Sponsored by the Friends of the Mystic River

Saturday, April 26 [Rain Date: April 27]

9:30 am—1:00 pm

Location: Mystic Riverbend Park

Meet at the Riverbend Park/Hormel Stadium Lot, Medford. Bags and gloves will be supplied, or bring your own gloves. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, call (781) 391-2604 or email mystic02155@hotmail.com.

Sing-A-Longs with Matt Heaton

Wednesdays; May 14; June 11

10:00 am

Drop-in Format

Location: Bestsellers Cafe

Join Matt for songs both silly and sublime as he performs for the under three foot crowd. To learn more about Matt, visit www.mattandshannonheaton.com

Kids Bowl Free Program!

Registered kids receive 2 free games of bowling daily all summer long! A family pass (\$24.95) will allow up to 4 adult family members to bowl 2 games every day all summer long, along with the children that have registered in your family. Visit www.kidsbowlfree.com or call (888) 342-2594 for more information.

Summer Camps and Summer Program Listings

- 1) Medford Summer Recreation Guide 2014 will be available at the Medford Family Network, the Medford Public Library, and at other city locations by the week of May 5.
- 2) American Camp Association (ACA) (781) 541-6080; www.acanewengland.org
- 3) KidsCamps.com (877) 242-9330; www.kidscamps.com
- 4) Medford Community Schools Summer Program (781) 393-2380 or rmaloney@medford.k12.ma.us
- 5) Special Education Parent Advisory Council; www.medfordpublicschools.org/for-parents/medford-sepac/

Exploring S.T.E.M.—New Play & Learn Programs !

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
For Ages 1—5
Call (781) 393-2106 to register!

Science: “Water & Bubbles”

Facilitated by Vicky de la Garza, M.A.

Saturday, May 24
9:30—11:30 am

Location: MFN Family Center

Water drop activities!
Bubbles, bubbles everywhere!
Droppers, wands, sponges and coffee filters!
Story time, art and music!

Technology: “Magnets & Magnification”

Facilitated by Vicky de la Garza, M.A.

Saturday, May 31
9:30—11:30 am

Location: MFN Family Center

Make a magic bottle!
Go on a collecting walk using MFN backpacks!
Use magnets and magnifying glasses of all sizes!
Story time, art and music!



Engineering: “Recycle Art Build”

Facilitated by Vicky de la Garza, M.A.

Saturday, June 7
9:30—11:30 am

Location: MFN Family Center

Use recyclable materials for a community build!
Fun-struction activities to build construction skills!
Brainstorm, repurpose for creative building!
Story time, art and music!



Math: “Fish Bowl Math”

Facilitated by Vicky de la Garza, M.A.

Saturday, June 14
9:30—11:30 am

Location: MFN Family Center

Pom pom race activities!
Distance, speed and measurements!
Sort-it-out and group graphing activities!
Story time, art and music!



The Science Works! “Professional Development” for Parents

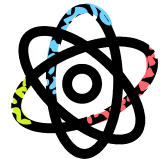
Facilitated by Steve Lechner, M.Ed.

Tuesday, June 3
6:30—8:30 pm

Location: MFN Family Center

Learn hands-on science enrichment activities to do at home and ideas how to create science enriched environments indoors and outdoors. Includes handouts and resource information. For ages 3—5.

Call (781) 393-2106 to register and for child care and transportation options.



Trolley Ride and a Scavenger Hunt/Hike at the Greenwood Lot in the Middlesex Fells

Facilitated by Moriah Tumbleson-Shaw

Saturday, May 10 [Rain Date: TBD]
10:00 am—11:30 am - Scavenger Hunt
11:30 am—12:00 pm - Play in the Park and Snack

Hop on board the Joseph’s Transportation trolley at any of these locations: Medford Family Network, Exchange Avenue or Lightguard Drive. The trolley will take you to/from the Middlesex Fells. The first 20 children enrolled will receive an MFN backpack to borrow for the hunt. FREE books, handouts, snack, and water. Registration is Required! Call (781) 393-2106!

Parent Leadership Opportunities

Medford Family Resource Coalition Council (MFRC)

The Council is an early childhood advisory body. The next meeting is Thursday, May 22 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the MFN Family Center and includes dinner, child care, and transportation options.



School Readiness and Early Childhood Curriculum Committee (SRECCC)

Seeking PreK, Kindergarten, and Grade 1 parents. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 12 from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm at the MFN Family Center.

For more information on the MFRC or the SRECCC, please contact Shelley Gross, Early Childhood/Afterschool Director at (781) 393-2211 or via email at sgross@medford.k12.ma.us

Medford Family Network Advisory Board (MFN)

Become a Member of the Medford Family Network Advisory Board! We are seeking new Board Members who are welcome to join at any time. Current committees are...

Marketing/Public Relations Committee

To focus on communication, including MFN 20th anniversary publicity, press and social media.

Program Committee

To advise on program development and implementation and to assist in the planning and promotion of the Early Education and Care Fair.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 8 from 6:15 pm to 8:15 pm at the MFN Family Center and includes dinner, child care, and transportation options.

For more information, please contact Marie Cassidy, Family Support Coordinator, at (781) 393-2106 or via email at mcassidy@medford.k12.ma.us.



Friends of the Medford Family Network Board (FMFN)

The FMFN is a nonprofit corporation comprised of MFN parents who promote, support and assist in raising funds for MFN programs. We are currently looking for interested individuals to serve on the Board in the following positions: President, Secretary and Treasurer for Fiscal Year 2015 (July 2014 to June 2015)!

If you would like to get involved, please contact Debbie Steiner-Hayes, President, at (781) 395-8624 or email at Debbie@medfordfamilies.org

Have You Heard the Words Brain Building in Progress (BBiP)?

BBiP makes the connections that build young brains!

Science shows that the back-and-forth interactions that young children have with caring adults actually build their developing brain. The Medford Family Network is part of this statewide effort with a strong network of supports and valuable resources for parents, caregivers and educators.

Together, we are building the foundation for a lifetime of learning and achievement and a more prosperous future for all. Check out www.brainbuildinginprogress.org



The Medford Family Network promotes this initiative by offering a variety of take-home activity ideas throughout the Family Center. Each Play and Learn Group and Traveling Playgroups in the Park will include a new Brain Building activity.

Pick up your BBiP take-home materials— a magnet, activity sheets, and free book —while supplies last.



Friends of the Medford Family Network (FMFN) Family Mixer

Thursday, June 5
6:00—8:00 pm

Location: MFN Family Center, 489 Winthrop Street

Come meet other Medford families with young children and enjoy Bertucci's pizza, salad, fruit and cake to celebrate the end of the FMFN year. Kids can have fun playing with new and old friends while parents learn more about the FMFN, the fundraising arm of the MFN.

For more information, contact Debbie Steiner-Hayes, FMFN President, at (781) 395-8624 or via email at Debbie@medfordfamilies.org

What is the Medford Family Network (MFN)?

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 13, and supporting the families that care for them. All adults who live or work in Medford, caring for young children, are welcome! This is accomplished through parenting education workshops; discussion groups; age-specific play and learn groups; new moms groups; home visitation; family events; a lending library; a family resource/drop-in center; information and referral services; family literacy initiatives; and individual consultation. There are programs for dads, grandparents, single parents, parents who speak languages other than English; working parents; at-home parents; and more. Programs are held at a variety of sites around the city – weekdays, evenings and weekends. Many activities are co-sponsored with other family-serving agencies. Parent advisory, governing and leadership roles are available and encouraged. Funding for the MFN is through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (MEEC), Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant, the Children's Trust (CT), the Friends of the Medford Family Network (FMFN) Corp., and the generous donations from our families and friends.

Information & Referral Services

If you have questions or concerns about your child(ren), family, or want to know about community resources, you can always call on the MFN. 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!

FY14 CFCE (Coordinated Family and Community Engagement) Grant Priorities:

These priorities are to: actively identify and serve families that are the most socially isolated, "hard to reach," and hence at greatest risk for developmental delays; provide high-quality, accurate consumer information and parent education based on science; provide evidence-based early and family literacy programming; support families through the continuum of services and supports needed for child development birth to 13, including intentional support into kindergarten; and provide linkage to comprehensive services to support optimal child development for families and for early education and care programs.

FY14 CT (Children's Trust) Grant Priorities:

The Children's Trust helps parents navigate the joys and challenges of raising children. The focus is based on the Strengthening Families Approach: parental resilience; social connections; concrete supports in times of need; knowledge of parenting and child development; social and emotional competence of children. MFN incorporates all of these factors into its programming throughout the year in a variety of methods and activities.

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



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



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