

SUMMER 2022

Ready. Set. Grow!

THE BIRTH TO 3RD GRADE PARTNERSHIP
NEWSLETTER



OUR MISSION:

The mission of the Birth to 3rd Grade Partnership is to **connect** the Cambridge early childhood ecosystem, **align** early childhood services and information, and **advocate** for and **advance** the needs of all young children, their families, and the early childhood workforce.

A letter from our Executive Director



Dear Cambridge Early Childhood Community,

As the school year quickly comes to a close, we want to take this opportunity to connect one last time before the summer. You may have noticed that this month our newsletter is not a "June" newsletter, rather a summer edition. The Birth to 3rd Grade Partnership team will still be working behind the scenes in preparation for fall programming, as well as on the design and development of Universal Pre-k. We know that many of our partners and colleagues however, will either be closed during the summer months or will take this opportunity for some much needed rest and relaxation after a very busy year! With that, our next newsletter won't be released until the fall, but please be on the lookout for communications from us over the next few months about professional development opportunities and any other special events.

In the meantime, our team will grow over the summer, as we have just posted two new positions! Please check out our postings for an Education Coach and Marketing & Communication Specialist. We are also still looking to add a UPK Project Manager to our team. Any individuals interested in that role can email me directly at lgrant@cpsd.us for more information.

I look forward to introducing our new team members in the fall, and wish everyone a safe and happy summer!

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L Grant".

**Dr. Lisa Grant
Executive Director
Birth to 3rd Grade Partnership**

The Birth to 3rd Grade Partnership Team

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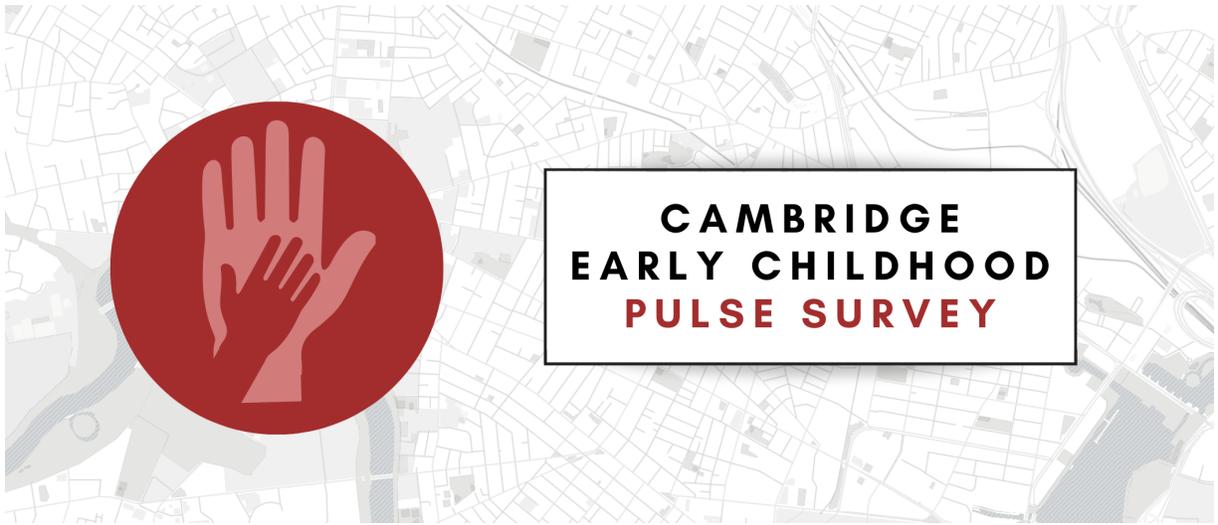
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The Birth to 3rd Grade Partnership is a collaboration supported by the City of Cambridge and Cambridge Public Schools



We are thrilled to invite you to participate in the Cambridge Early Childhood Pulse Survey, a research effort led by researchers at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in collaboration with the City of Cambridge’s Birth to 3rd Grade Partnership. All early educators and leaders working with children between birth and five in Cambridge – including directors/principals, assistant directors/principals, teachers, assistant teachers, paraprofessionals, coaches – are eligible to complete a one-time survey about their experiences working in early education.

We anticipate the survey will take 30 minutes to complete and all eligible respondents will be given a \$35.00 gift card for completing the survey.

We encourage you to take this survey, as well as to share this opportunity with other early educators and leaders in your program. Please forward this information to others you know working with children between birth and five in Cambridge.

[Click here to learn more and take the survey!](#)

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Emily Hanno at ehanno@g.harvard.edu We are excited to hear from you and all of Cambridge’s early educators in order to better understand the strengths and needs of the early education workforce and ultimately inform programs and policies to support the important work early educators like you do!

Updates for the Field

COVID-19 Updates

View the latest resources and information from EEC regarding COVID-19 [here](#).

View the latest resources and information from the **City of Cambridge** regarding COVID-19 [here](#).

Department of Early Education & Care News

The Department of Early Care & Education's next board meeting will be held on:
June 21, 2022
1:30PM-4:30PM

You can watch the meeting live on the Department's YouTube Channel [here](#).

Missed the last EEC Board Meeting from May 10, 2022? Catch a recording of it [here](#)!



MASSACHUSETTS
**Department of
Early Education and Care**

**More
Updates!**

Kindergarten Transition Forms

Kindergarten Transition Forms have been sent out to all center directors in Cambridge. These forms connect a child's preschool teacher to the child's Junior Kindergarten or Kindergarten teacher in Cambridge Public Schools. This sharing of information will benefit the child, the family, and the educator during this critical transition period.

You can find more information on our website, [Support the Transition to Kindergarten](#).

If you did not receive an email with the link to the google form or have any questions, please reach out to **Liz Barlock, School Readiness Manager** at ebarlock@cpsd.us.

With your help, we hope to reach our goal of having a completed Transition Form for every child entering Junior Kindergarten or Kindergarten next year.



MAAEYC Professional Development Survey

In an effort to better support the needs of the early childhood community in Massachusetts, MAAEYC is kindly asking for your help. We would like your feedback on this brief survey. This will assist us in capturing what type of professional development, courses or workshop series would be the most beneficial for you, your organization, children and families. All of the information is confidential and will not be shared. We would like to thank you in advance and commend all of you for your dedication to the field of early education.

Link:

<https://forms.gle/p4kqzTnCZ9eCdNwo9>

The Center for Families June Newsletter is now available!

Inside you'll find information about a wide variety of resources and programs...from Cambridge Dads to Mindfulness Mondays to free resource bags for families and more.

To read the June newsletter click: [HERE](#)

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

Our Role in Serving and Supporting Diverse Fathers

Boston Fathers & Family Network

Thursday, June 2, 2022 | 10 am- 12 pm

Virtual | [Register here](#)

Join the Children's Trust and Patrick Fennell as we discuss how to support fathers with diverse backgrounds. This session will highlight the importance of fathers as a part of their children's lives and their unique influence on children's social, emotional, and cognitive outcomes. We will also explore how to best support the unique needs of the dads we serve.

This interactive session will:

- Identify the barriers to engaging, serving, and supporting fathers
- Explore dimensions of diversity to better understand various experiences, perspectives, and needs
- Create an opportunity for self-reflection concerning diversity
- Share strategies and best practices to increase competence and capacity

Children Thrive in Equitable Communities: Eleven Simple Rules to Help Us Get There

The Hunt Institute

Tuesday, June 7, 2022 | 2:00-3:00 pm

Virtual | [Learn more and register here](#)

We'll be joined by Judy Jablon and Nichole Parks of Leading for Children, Nikki Baldwin of the University of Wyoming and Rachel Swanson of Encampment Preschool.

In this webinar, panelists will introduce the framework of the Eleven Simple Rules for thriving communities. Members of the Wyoming Quality Learning Network will describe how they used the Eleven Simple Rules to create an effective statewide collaboration. The results have been a shared vision of quality across all early learning settings and pathways for thriving, equitable communities for children and families in Wyoming.

Equitable Family-Teacher Relationships for All Children

Produced in partnership with Equity Research Action Coalition at UNC Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute

Thursday, June 16, 2022 | 2:00-3:30 PM

Virtual: Session will be recorded | [Register here](#)

Presenters: Iheoma Iruka, Ph.D., Research Professor & Fellow University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Kamyé Hugley M.S., Experienced Coach and Trainer

Numerous evidence exists linking the influence of both home and school on children's learning and wellbeing. The connection between teachers and parents is one way to ensure children are able to transition between these two critical contexts of their early development. However, research indicates that families of color, families whose first language is not English, and those living in challenging circumstances report fewer close relationships with their child's teacher compared to White, monolingual English-speaking, and higher income families. A child's race, place, class, and language should not be a barrier to home-school partnership which strengthen children's learning and wellbeing. In this session, we will examine the potential barriers between home and school, and ways to strengthen these relationships.

You can earn .2 CEUs for each webinar. The cost is \$15 paid to University of Oklahoma online when you apply. Learn more here: [Continuing Education Units \(CEUs\) from University of Oklahoma](#)

Professional Development Opportunities Continued...

Diversity in Early Relationship Support: Equity Focused Training in Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation for practitioners of color.

Center for Early Relationship Support (CERS) at Jewish Family & Children's Service Boston

September 2022-June 2023 | Meets weekly on Wednesday mornings from 9-11 am

Virtual | Learn more and [apply here](#)

Participants will be admitted to the IECMHC Training Program on a rolling basis, though early applications are encouraged. Priority will be given to applications submitted by June 15th, 2022.

Center for Early Relationship Support (CERS) at Jewish Family & Children's Service Boston is offering a new training program in Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) for providers of color. This free, comprehensive course seeks to bring more providers of color into the IECMH consultation field in order to better support children from all racial and ethnic backgrounds.

The IECMHC Training Program runs September 2022-June 2023 and meets weekly on Wednesday mornings from 9-11 am over teleconference.

To learn more, contact the IECMHC Training Program at iecmhconsultation@jfcscboston.org or 781-693-5622

In addition to the offerings above, please check StrongStart's online PD calendar for more training opportunities: <https://eecstrongstart.org/training-schedule>

Cambridge Community Engagement Team Networking Event

One City Department's Journey Toward Equity and Inclusion

Thursday, June 9, 2022,
9:30-11:30am

Members of the Community Development Department's Community Engagement Advisory group will be reflecting on the past and sharing present efforts and future strategies to move towards a more inclusive future!

Preregistration is required for this free event.

[Please register here.](#)

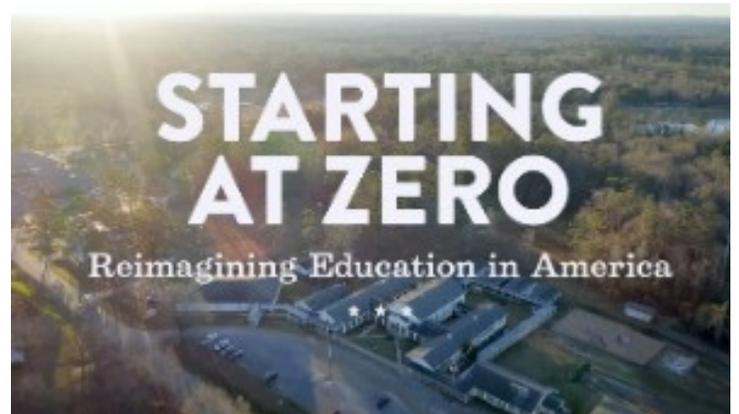
The Zoom link will be sent to those who register.

Questions? Contact Lynn Rosenbaum
lrosenbaum@cambridgema.gov



Join Strategies for Children on June 7, 2022 for a virtual film screening of Starting at Zero: Reimagining Education in America, followed by the premiere of a Massachusetts companion video and live panel discussion.

"Starting at Zero: Reimagining Education in America" explores the power of investing in high-quality early childhood education so that all children and families have the opportunity to attain the American Dream. The film brings together the voices of policymakers, educators, academics, business leaders, pediatricians, parents, and children. Starting at Zero examines the latest developmental brain science to demonstrate how essential the earliest years of learning are to maximize human potential. Key features of high-quality early childhood learning environments and experiences are outlined and then brought to life as the film delves into the evolution of Alabama's #1 nationally ranked state Pre-K program.



[Watch the Trailer](#)

Join SFC and partners on June 7, 2022 for a virtual film screening of Starting at Zero: Reimagining Education in America, followed by the premiere of a Massachusetts companion video and live panel discussion.

- Massachusetts Companion Video: Massachusetts stakeholders highlight the landscape of early learning today, the impact of the pandemic, the potential for transformative investments in high-quality early childhood education and care, and what's next.
- Panel Discussion: Our panel will feature several communities in Massachusetts and how they are building comprehensive early childhood systems and partnerships at the local level. Audience members will have the opportunity for live engagement through the Q&A and chat functions.

[Click here to learn more and register for the event!](#)

Check Out What We're Celebrating this Month



National Caribbean Heritage Month was first officially observed in 2006 after being unanimously adopted by the House of Representatives in 2005. It was sponsored by Congresswoman Barbara Lee and focused on recognizing the significance of Caribbean people and their descendants in the history and culture of the United States.

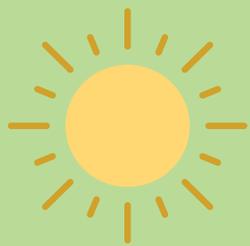
Caribbean-American, barrier-breaking public servants in the Biden Administration include Vice President Kamala Harris, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, and Domestic Policy Advisor Susan Rice.

Pride Month started in 1970 at the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and is an opportunity to celebrate the identities, activism, and contributions of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Pride Month honors the legacy of queer and trans resistance, including the leadership of trans and gender nonconforming people of color throughout history, and their activism and commitment to making a more inclusive, affirming, and just world, including and especially for LGBTQIA+ people and other marginalized folks. During Pride Month, we celebrate the ancestors who paved the way and the beauty, complexity, and resilience of the LGBTQIA+ community.



Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration to honor the ending of enslavement in the United States. On June 19, 1865 in Galveston, Texas, General Gordon Granger issued General Order Number 3, declaring that the Emancipation Proclamation established freedom for all enslaved people—a full two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect. Freed people in Galveston began celebrating Juneteenth, and over time, celebrations spread throughout Texas and across the country by formerly enslaved people and their descendants. Juneteenth is now a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African-Americans.



Summer Camp Guide

It's that time of year, many families are looking for summer programming for their children. B3, in partnership with Find-It Cambridge has put together a simple guide of summer offerings for 3 to 6 year olds. Please share this with your networks!

[Cambridge Summer Camp Guide for Young Children](#)

For families with older children please check out guides from Agenda for Children Out of School Time!

[Elementary School Out of School Time Summer Opportunities](#)

[Middle School Out of School Time Summer Opportunities](#)

Healthy Eating, Active Living (H.E.A.L.) Corner

Eating Well Made Easy

Is your staff interested in healthy eating? Kick off the summer season with an in-person or virtual visit from your friendly public health nutritionist! I want to empower your team with knowledge about healthy eating and living. All of us are constantly bombarded with false, diet-focused food information that harms more than it helps. Help your team avoid Dr. Google and ask a registered dietitian with the knowledge, expertise, and zero judgment. This would be a great way to use a staff meeting or event! Focus on health as a team and build your own culture of health and wellness.

Contact Rachael Cross, public health nutritionist, at rcross@challiance.org with questions or interest in this or other healthy eating active living projects.





Program Spotlight

LEARNING SPROUTS HOME-BASED PRESCHOOL Meet Laura Clarke



Laura has been a professional Early Childhood Educator and business owner for many years. She has been an advocate and a leader in the Cambridge community, bringing other educators together to learn and grow, demonstrating her constant commitment to high quality. Laura holds dear that children learn about themselves and the world through play and discovery. At Learning Sprouts, children immerse themselves in learning through educational materials and developmentally appropriate practices in a safe, nurturing and engaging environment. They are prepared socially and academically for kindergarten and are encouraged to be independent and caring individuals. The curriculum is guided by the children's interests and includes materials in literacy, math, science and art. It meets the needs of all learners, including those that speak English as a second language. The goal is that all the children feel included, secure and accepted for who they are.

For more info, [click here](#).

Program Spotlight

Baby University



On Saturday May 21, Cambridge's Baby University graduated their 14th class of families! Amongst family, friends, staff, and City and School Department leaders the 20 graduating families celebrated their completion of the 14 week Core Saturday morning program which focuses on parent support and child development. Since its inception in 2010 Baby University, a Cambridge Center for Families Program, has graduated 403 families.

With a guiding philosophy of "Parenting is Hard Work and We all try to do our best" the Baby U team works with parents and caregivers providing both one on one support and Saturday morning parent education sessions, which focus on brain development, the power of play, stress management and so much more. On zoom this year staff worked hard to create opportunities for parent/child play using puppets, songs, books and guitar playing. Baby U prioritizes Cambridge fathers and looks to create programming that meet their individual needs.

Baby U is a unique and extraordinarily impactful program, supporting and guiding families at a critical time in a child and families development. The community that Baby U creates for these families is invaluable and many come to rely on it as their village to support them and their kids.

Quote from a Baby U child - "Mommy it's Saturday, it's time for Baby U!"

Quote from a Baby U parent - "Baby U gave me great concrete tools to use but I learned the most from listening to parents"

For more info, [click here.](#)





The B3 Team packaged 600 Welcome Bags for all new Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten children in Cambridge Public Schools.

Welcome Bags are one part of how the Birth to 3rd Grade Partnership supports school readiness in Cambridge. To ensure that children are ready for school, families need to be supported as well. These bags include materials to help support children and their families as they make the transition into Cambridge Public Schools. This year the bags are filled with math games, writing materials, the book All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold, a resource guide for families, and many other items from our community partners.

The transition to Kindergarten is a major event in the lives of children and families. It's a pivotal point for establishing the kinds of practices that can help continue the learning children have experienced during the first 5 years of life. B3 continues to expand on school readiness work throughout the community, including the transition to Kindergarten. Readiness should not only focus on the child being ready but must include ready families, ready communities, and ready schools.