

FEBRUARY 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,

The month of February is a symbolic time of year for me and my family. It's the time of year we truly stop to pause, show appreciation, and express our love for one another. These sentiments don't necessarily need to be tied to a holiday, rather it's more important to find our own individual timing and ways to express our feelings to family and friends whom we love.

This month is also special to us because it is Black History Month. Although themes around Black culture, Black history, and Black identity come up in every day conversations in my home, I like to use the opportunity this month presents to support others in having these conversations and expanding their learning too. With that, I would like to share some of my favorite books for young children to learn about Black history and culture. I hope you find these selections just as inspiring personally, and to your program as I do!

- The ABC's of Black History by *Rio Cortez (Author) and Lauren Semmer (Illustrations)*
- Little Leaders: Bold Black Women in History by *Vashti Harrison*
- Little Leaders: Exceptional Men in Black History by *Vashti Harrison and Kwesi Johnson*
- Baby Young, Gifted, and Black by *Jamia Wilson (Author) and Andrea Pippins (Illustrator)*
- Mae Among the Stars by *Roda Ahmed*
- Hair Love by *Matthew A. Cherry*
- Henry's Freedom Box by *Ellen Levine*
- Dream Big Little One, by *Vashti Harrison*
- Follow Your Dreams Little One, by *Vashti Harrison*
- Shades of Black: A Celebration of Our Children by *Sandra Pinkney and Miles Pinkney*
- We March by *Shane Evans*
- Be a King: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dream and You by *Carol Boston Weatherford & James E. Ransome*



In partnership,

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



# The Birth to 3rd Grade Partnership Team

**Lisa Grant, Ed.D., Executive Director**  
lgrant@cpsd.us

**Elizabeth Barlock, School Readiness Manager**  
ebarlock@cpsd.us

**Emily Callejas, Professional Development Coordinator**  
ecallejas@cpsd.us

**Dawn Grassi, Administrative Assistant**  
dgrassi@cpsd.us

**Katharyn Hok, Education Coach**  
khok@cpsd.us

**Allen Kesten, Scholarship Specialist**  
akesten@cpsd.us

**Danielle Pazos, Program Quality Manager**  
dpazos@cpsd.us

**Megan Postal, Home Visiting Consultant**  
meganpostal@gmail.com

**Isis Arnesen Pardo, Education Coach**  
isisarnesen@gmail.com

**Paula Bowie, Family Child Care Coach/Mentor**  
paulajbowie@gmail.com

**Christina Denis, Education Coach**  
chrisdenis15@gmail.com

**Nyra Hall, Education Coach**  
confidentkidsat189@gmail.com

**Kaori Hattori de Panepinto, Director Mentor**  
kaorihdp@gmail.com

**Nicole Johnson, Director Mentor**  
nicolejeninejohnson@gmail.com

**Linda Schumacher, Family Child Care Coach/Mentor**  
lindadelanoschumacher@gmail.com

**Polly Smith, Director Mentor**  
pollysmit@gmail.com



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

# 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

Neighborhood Villages, in partnership with the Department of Early Education and Care, is offering free COVID testing to all Massachusetts licensed early education and care programs, with the following options:

Symptomatic Rapid Testing - ages 2 and older.

Rapid Cohort Testing - ages 2 and older.

Weekly Pooled PCR Testing - ages 3 and older.

Visit the [website](#) to learn more.

Neighborhood Villages has also compiled resources for EEC providers [here](#). If you are ready to enroll, click [here](#).

Missed the last EEC Board Meeting from January 11, 2022? Catch a recording of it [here](#)!

**The Department of Early Care & Education's next board meeting will be held on:**

**February 8, 2022 from 1 - 4pm**  
**You can watch the meeting live on the Department's YouTube Channel [here](#).**

# More Updates!

## Cambridge Public Health Department Update

Early Childhood Providers: continue to report a positive case according to EEC guidelines. You will then get email confirmation from one of the state Epidemiologists with some attachments.

The state Epidemiologist will no longer send email notification to the Local Board of Health, so please email [sbam@challiance.org](mailto:sbam@challiance.org) soon after you report to state with the following:

- Full Name of the positive person
- DOB
- Address
- Positive date (PCR or Antigen)

In addition to continuing to report to EEC per its current guidelines, the **Cambridge Public Health Department is asking local childcare organizations to report directly to us locally if they have three or more cases in one classroom.**

For Cambridge organizations looking to report a case to the health department, please fill out and submit this [form](#).

## Continuous Quality Improvement Program

Are you a center director or family child care educator looking for increased support, coaching, & funding to help increase the quality of your program? Or maybe you'd like to start a program of your own but don't know where to begin?

B3 is looking for programs and educators who are interested in joining us on a journey towards continuous quality improvement! To find out more about how to join this exciting initiative, contact us at [b3info@cpsd.us](mailto:b3info@cpsd.us)

## The Center for Families February 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 February newsletter click: [HERE](#)

# Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

## **Learning from Latinx immigrant parents: An evidence-based treatment to address trauma in young children and parents**

February 11, 2022, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM - Online

Find out more and register [here](#).

Online Community Engagement Team (CET) Networking Event

## **Language Justice Part 3: “Plain Language” Best Practices**

Thursday, February 10, 2022, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

Questions: contact Lynn Rosenbaum [Irosenbaum@cambridgema.gov](mailto:Irosenbaum@cambridgema.gov)

Register [here](#).

Boston Children's Hospital presents: **COVID Guidance in Early Care Settings**

Presenters: Dr. Katherine Hsu and Dr. Katherine Wu

Tuesday February 15, 2022, 6:30-8:00 pm

The agenda will include looking through the AAP resource: Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and School Settings, COVID updates, and time for Q&A.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89404577122?pwd=YWFmVmZ4Yks2ZlBUZFpoZHpyeCtSZz09>

Meeting ID: 894 0457 7122

Passcode: 116509

## **Promoting the Positive Racial Identity of Black Infants and Toddlers in Early Childhood Programs**

Presenter: Iheoma U. Iruka, Ph.D.

Thu, Feb 24, 2022, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Early Childhood Investigations, a webinar series produced by Engagement Strategies, LLC. Produced in partnership with Equity Research Institute of Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at UNC Chapel Hill.

The first 1,000 days are a sensitive period in children's development. This is a critical period for language, emotional, and social development. Evidence is also accumulating about these early years as critical for positive ethnic-racial identity. Positive ethnic-racial identity is protective and promotive for children's healthy development especially children from racially and linguistically minoritized families and communities. Unfortunately, this is an area rarely discussed and educators who care for and teach babies are undervalued and receive low compensation. In this session we will examine how Black families and their babies have been dealing with the two pandemics – COVID-19 and racism. CEUs available.

Register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4468002257477308941>

## **The Playful Conference**

The Playful Schools Conference is organized by The LEGO Foundation, the International School of Billund, and Project Zero at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. We are joined by speakers and ideas from across the globe committed to making learning more playful, meaningful, and engaging.

Online: February 8-10, 2022

Please visit this website for more information and [registration](#)

## **Brazelton Touchpoints Center - Navigating Challenging Conversations Workshop Series: Why, What and How**

As professionals working with families of young children, including early childhood educators, family, and center-based child care providers, home visitors, pediatric health providers, and early interventionists, and other family-facing professionals, we may often feel anxious or at a loss about how to navigate conversations on challenging topics. Yet these are often the most important conversations to have in order to build and maintain trusting relationships with families.

In this three-part webinar workshop series, we will explore how our perspectives and roles may influence our understanding of those of the children, families, and colleagues we work with.

Dates:

Wednesday, February 2 - The Why of Challenging Conversations and Making Them Opportunities

Wednesday, February 9 - The What of Challenging Conversations and What Can Make Them Opportunities

Wednesday, February 16 - The How of Strengthening Relationships through Challenging Conversations

Register [here](#)

## **The Growing Brain Basics Webinar Series**

This series supports participants' exploration of key concepts, research, and concrete strategies from ZERO TO THREE's The Growing Brain: From Birth to 5 Years Old curriculum.

Price: \$99 | Member Price: \$74

February 1-22, 2022

How babies' brains grow in the context of relationships is one of the most important topics in early childhood development. Research on this topic is exploding, underscoring the need for early childhood professionals to learn about foundations of brain development and strategies to best support the growing brains of infants and young children. This series supports participants' exploration of key concepts, research, and concrete strategies from ZERO TO THREE's The Growing Brain: From Birth to 5 Years Old curriculum. The series is composed of 4, 90-minute webinars expertly facilitated by ZERO TO THREE Faculty.

Sessions:

Brain Basics

February 1, 2022 - 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm Eastern Time

Cognitive Development: Language and Executive Function

February 8, 2022 - 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm Eastern Time

Social-Emotional Development and Understanding Behavior

February 15, 2022 - 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm Eastern Time

Everyday Play

February 22, 2022 - 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm Eastern Time

Register now for this 4-part series: <https://myzerotothree.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a3p2S000000VTmY>

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

# Intentional & Inclusive Spaces in Early Education

Please join B3 Director Mentor Nicole Johnson for a thoughtful series of virtual workshops on intentional practices in Anti-racist, Anti-bias, inclusive education. While acknowledging the current barriers and stress levels within our communities, we will help support program leaders and teachers in cultivating conversation around culturally relevant and sustaining pedagogical practices, reflective application, and safe learning spaces.

This series will take place virtually from 1:00-2:00 on:

February 23, 2022

March 23, 2022

April 20, 2022

May 18, 2022

We encourage attendance for all 4 sessions. If you are unable to attend, recordings will be available to those who register.

Registration is required:

<https://www.cb3p.org/sessions/80/>

# Cambridge Week of the Young Child 2022

## Save the Date!

Cambridge and the Birth to 3rd Grade Partnership will be celebrating the **Week of the Young Child** from Saturday, April 2nd through Friday, April 8th. B3 is planning an in-person kick off that Saturday, followed by virtual workshops and professional development for educators and others working with young children throughout the week. We can't wait to see you there! Stay tuned for more information.





Find It Cambridge is a website that serves as a one-stop-shop to find activities, services, and resources in Cambridge. It's also a free promotional opportunity for you, and a great referral tool you can share with your families. You and your families can call or email Andrew, the Find It Manager, to help you find what you are looking for. He can be reached by email ([aliedtka@cambridgema.gov](mailto:aliedtka@cambridgema.gov)) or phone (617-686-2998).

You can also contact Andrew if you would like a free account to include your programs and events on Find It Cambridge. We'll also promote your Find It pages on social media. Our posts are an easy way to share important resources with your families and followers. Please like and follow Find It Cambridge on: Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

The **Agenda for Children Literacy Initiative** and the **Center for Families** have two upcoming activities for Cambridge families with young children and appreciate your help in sharing them with your families. Please let us know if you have any questions.

## **1. February At-Home Activity Calendar for families with children birth to 4**

Winter can feel long so get new ideas daily to do with your children birth to 4 years old in the February 2022 At-Home Activity Calendar! Designed for children birth to 4 years but all are welcome to try the activities.

Calendar: [bit.ly/3iNGJQg](https://bit.ly/3iNGJQg)

## **2. February Vacation Week Fun!**

Check out the virtual activities for Cambridge families with children birth to 8 years old during February Vacation week! Registration required for each event. Flyer: [bit.ly/33VEaj2](https://bit.ly/33VEaj2)