

MAY 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,**

They say that "April showers bring May flowers" and I am certainly hoping that's the case. I am ready for warmer weather, longer, sunnier days, and all the joy that nature brings with it during this season. And if that wasn't cause enough for celebration, the first week of May is Teacher Appreciation Week; with May 3rd being proclaimed as National Teacher Appreciation Day!

I'd like to give a very special thank you to all of the early childhood educators in our community who work tirelessly; pouring their time, energy, love, and passion into each and every child they teach and care for each and every day. Your contributions and commitment to our community do not go unnoticed, and it is our commitment to you to advance and advocate on behalf of the early childhood workforce to ensure your work is honored, upheld and valued.

How will your program celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week? Check out these links for more information and ideas!

[White House Proclamation for National Teacher Appreciation](#)

[National PTA](#)

[Teacher Appreciation Giveaways and Freebies](#)

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Grant".

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

The Birth to 3rd Grade Partnership Team

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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

Missed the last EEC Board Meeting from March 8, 2022? Catch a recording of it [here](#)!

The Department of Early Care & Education's April board meeting has been cancelled. The following board meeting will be held on:

**May 10, 2022 from 1 - 4pm
You can watch the meeting live on the Department's YouTube Channel [here](#).**



**MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Early Education and Care**

More Updates...

Kindergarten Transition Form time is here!

During the month of May, the Birth to 3rd Grade Partnership will be sending out Kindergarten Transition Forms 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. Sharing the child's strengths and needs means that the child is known as an individual before the start of school. This sharing of information will benefit the child, the family, and the educator during this critical transition period.

Please be on the lookout for these forms and more detailed information. The transition form will be sent via email, along with instructions on how to complete and submit it. 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.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Liz Barlock, School Readiness Manager at **ebarlock@cpsd.us**.

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.

<https://forms.gle/p4kqzTnCZ9eCdNwo9>

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

Supercharge Home Visiting with Adult Learning Principles

Presenter: Dana Childress, Ph.D.

Thursday, May 12, 2022 2:00 - 3:30 PM

This webinar is sponsored by Brookes Publishing

You know how to teach children; it's your superpower. Do you know how to teach adults too? As an early interventionist or parent educator supporting families in-person and virtually, it is becoming increasingly essential that you understand how caregivers learn. In this webinar, you will learn to recognize the link between caregiver coaching and adult learning, as well as identify adult learning principles and strategies for integrating adult learning principles into practices.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) through the University of Oklahoma plus free certificates for attendance. To register click [here](#)

Creating an Anti-Racist Early Childhood System

Presenter: Dr. Rosemarie Allen

Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:00AM - 1:00PM

This session will identify factors that promote equitable, anti bias/antiracist early childhood environments. Participants will identify critical factors related to equitable practices as well as the seven principles of culturally responsive practices.

To register click [here](#)

Let's Play! Cooperative Games in Early Childhood Programs

Presenter: Suzanne Lyons, M.A.

Thursday, May 19, 2022 2:00 - 3:30 PM

Presenter: Suzanne Lyons

Sponsored by Childcare Education Institute.

There is wide consensus that developmentally appropriate education for young children incorporates play-based learning. But play is more than free play, outdoor play, and dramatic play! Game play is also fun and enriching. In fact, you may already use many kinds of games in your classroom.

1. Learn what educational purposes cooperative games support (from SEL to teaching academic subjects and more)
2. Understand why cooperative play is essential for healthy child development.
3. Distinguish the features of good cooperative games for young children,
4. Reflect on the advantages of cooperative games as compared to competitive ones.
5. Discover some sweet cooperative games used—and developed by Montessori and Froebel

Please be advised that you will only be eligible for the great door prizes if you participate in the live session.

You can earn .2 CEUs for each webinar. The cost is \$15 paid to University of Oklahoma online when you apply.

To register click [here](#)

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



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

Be Breastfeeding-Friendly!

Did you know that breastfed babies have a lower risk of asthma, eczema, respiratory infections, and more? Moms benefit too with a decreased risk for ovarian and cervical cancer. It can mean all the difference to have an early education and care site that supports breastfeeding/pumping in a tangible way. We can help you create a welcoming space that has all the necessary components, draft a policy and introduce it to staff and families, build a bank of resources, and much more! We can guide you through the steps of becoming breastfeeding friendly. Don't go it alone when we have the resources and knowledge to guide your individual process. Reach out to Rachael Cross, public health nutritionist, at rcross@challiance.org with questions or interest in other healthy eating active living projects.



Looking for activities and resources for you and the families you serve?

Use Find It Cambridge to search for Parenting Resources and more!

Want to know if your site or program is on Find It?

Visit Childcare & Preschools or contact Andrew - the Find It Manager.

Visit: www.finditcambridge.org

Call or Text:: 617-686-2998

Email: info@finditcambridge.org



StoryWalk Cambridge

Can You Find All The Pages?



Thursday, May 19, 2022
5:30-7pm

Donnelly Field, Cambridge
(York & Berkshire Streets)

Rain Date: Friday, May 20

**Come for free books, craft
activities, pizza &
Knucklebones!**

All families are welcome!
**Activities designed for children
ages 2-8.**

**It's a reading
adventure at
Donnelly Field!**

**Walk along the field
to read all the
pages in *Sometimes
We Do* and *From
Head to Toe*.**

Questions?
**Call Becky at
(617) 299-6705**