

DECEMBER 2021

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,

Despite the early sunset and the cold, I have to say this is probably my favorite time of year. The celebrations, observances, and traditions unique to each of our cultures is a reminder of how wonderful the diversity of this community is. Each is special, however one thread that seems to run throughout is the incorporation of light. Light is a symbol of life, of happiness, of hope, and of prosperity.

These symbols not only resonate personally, but are representative of where the field of early education and care is in this moment. Many of you may be following the developments as the federal government moves one step closer to the potential adoption of Build Back Better. For those who want to learn more about how this bill will impact early childhood, I've included a wonderful resource from the Hunt Institute that explains how this bill will support and improve our work [HERE](#). It is wonderful to see that the recommendations being made at the federal level are directly aligned with the work that the Birth to 3rd Grade Partnership has been focused on over the last five years.

The promise of new resources, support, and investments in early education and care brings a sense of hope that we will be able to scale this important work to reach all children, all families, all early education and care professionals, across our entire community...and across all communities! The Birth to 3rd Grade Partnership commits to serving as an advocate on behalf of the Cambridge early education and care community; to ensure continued representation, prioritization, and alignment of our work here in our city, state, and beyond; and to shine light on just how important quality early education and care experiences are in creating equitable and just outcomes for children and their families.

In partnership,



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

Check out recordings of previously held events:

[EEC Emergency Board Meeting
November 29, 2021](#)

[Program Licensing & Quality - Center-
Based \(0-5\)
November 18, 2021](#)

[Professional Pathways
November 15, 2021](#)

Missed the last EEC Board Meeting from November 9, 2021? Catch a recording of it [here](#)!

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

December 14, 2021 from 1 - 4pm
You can watch the meeting live on the Department's YouTube Channel [here](#).

More Updates!

We want your feedback!

B3 is currently conducting a survey of the early childhood workforce regarding you and your organization's professional development needs. Please take 2 minutes to share your feedback. Your participation is appreciated!

SURVEY



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

There is still time to apply for Child Care Stabilization Grants through EEC for your program!

For more information, click [HERE](#)



Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

The Children's Trust

Family Support Fridays

***First Session*: A Strength-Based Approach to Transforming Difficult Behaviors**

Friday, December 10, 2021, 10 am to 12 noon

Back by popular demand, this year's Family Support Fridays webinar series will host 10 monthly sessions with experts in the fields of family support, parent education, and early childhood development.

Free NASW CEUs are available!

Register [here!](#)

The Children's Trust

The Legacy of Fatherhood: Learning from Three Generations of Fathers

Thursday, December 16, 2021, 10 AM to 12 noon

National Bestselling Author Steven Manchester will join us to discuss his new book, *DAD: A NOVEL*, which chronicles the sacred legacy of fatherhood. Written for men and women alike, Manchester pulls back the curtain on what it means to be blessed with fatherhood—and then going on to earn the title Dad. Register now to join the Boston Fathers & Family Network for more conversations about how to support and engage fathers in the family support!

Register [here!](#)

Lesley University

Early Childhood Innovations Series in partnership with Neighborhood Villages

Advocacy in Early Childhood: How Do We Save Ourselves?

December 7, 2021, 4:30-6:30pm

Register [here!](#)

Institute for Nonprofit Practice

From Othering to Belonging, FEATURING JOHN A. POWELL

December 8, 2021, 12:00 - 1:30PM ET

"It is an absolute human certainty that no one can know his own beauty or perceive a sense of his own worth until it has been reflected back to him in the mirror of another loving, caring human being." – john a. powell

Join the Institute for Nonprofit Practice (INP) for an important and timely conversation with john a. powell – an internationally recognized expert in the areas of civil rights, civil liberties, structural racism, housing, poverty, and democracy – about the concept of belonging and how to move beyond othering to advance our collective progress. For those who were able to take part in powell's previous discussion with INP, this session will expand on tactical strategies for putting these concepts into practice and how we can, individually and collectively, sustain and measure our efforts to build a more inclusive world where all belong. This session will be moderated by INP's Chief of Staff and EVP, Erica Hamilton.

Register [here!](#)

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



Week of the Young Child
April 2 - 8, 2022

Request for Proposals

The Cambridge Birth to 3rd Grade Partnership (B3) seeks skilled trainers for professional development workshops during our second annual Week of the Young Child® (WOYC) Event. The Week of the Young Child® is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association.

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child® is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. NAEYC first established the Week of the Young Child® in 1971. WOYC is a time to come together for a fun-filled week celebrating young children and their families. (Source: NAEYC)

This year's Week of the Young Child is April 2-8, 2022. B3 will host virtual and in-person PD sessions Saturday through Friday.

[Submit your proposal here!](#)

Helpful Info...

Do you have children transitioning to Junior Kindergarten or Kindergarten?

Check out Cambridge Public Schools for important information, including a recent slide show about the process. This information will be helpful in supporting families with children preparing to make this transition!

Find information and resources [HERE](#)

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

BabySteps Savings Plan - Upcoming Presentations for Home Visitors and Family Support Professionals

The BabySteps savings plan is a MA program to help families invest in post high school education and training. This presentation will introduce the program, explain the \$50 seed deposit, including the U.Fund 529 account used in the program. We will look at the benefits of a Children's Savings Accounts (CSA), some of the FAQs, the challenges in reaching low income communities and the role we hope that the home visiting professionals can play. We will have time for comments, feedback, and questions.

You can choose to attend any of the following dates:

Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021

02:00pm - 3:30PM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqceuprj4rHtxQH6RkP65ph20IRwXBrl5m>

Monday, Dec. 13, 2021

09:00am - 10:30AM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUsduuogjMiH9MXZx4tAZMMcctEwDce2B-p>

Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021

02:00pm - 3:30PM

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAocmpqD4oGdK9v4J_mn7mhOChdN41J-kR



Program Spotlight: Home-Based Early Childhood Program

The Home-Based Early Childhood Program is a literacy and school readiness program; part of the ParentChild+ (ParentChild Plus) national organization. You can read more about this evidenced-based program here: <https://www.parentchildplus.org/>

The Home-Based Early Childhood Program in Cambridge collaborates with Cambridge Public Schools and The Birth to 3rd Grade Partnership to promote the importance of learning through a playful approach and meaningful relationship building. Our educational center is typically families' homes. We have 12 Early Learning Specialists who visit families once a week from October to June. During this time, the Early Learning Specialists, caregivers, and children connect and exchange ideas using a playful learning approach, with books and materials we provide during the school year.

This year the program has been focusing on outdoor play, themed neighborhood walks, and library visits. Early Learning Specialists and caregivers work together to explore ways to learn by observing, nurturing curiosity, asking questions, talking, and learning from the natural context.

The Home-Based Early Childhood Program provides early learning opportunities for families and children of Cambridge. Our Home Visitors connect them to city resources; sharing creative ideas to develop a love for life-long learning for young children.



For more info
click
[HERE](#)

Are you, your staff, or families looking for opportunities to give back this holiday season? Or do you have families in need of resources and support? Check out these organizations below:

Organizations that help families in Cambridge (Donations)

Cambridge Community Center – Food & supply pantry, and more!

Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee (CEOC), – Many services for individuals and families including a food pantry

Food for Free

Just a Start – Adult Career Training and more

East End House – Emergency food and more

Cambridge Community Foundation

Volunteer Opportunities

The Spot





Look who's hiring!

Agenda for Children - Literacy Initiative

Outreach Coordinator/Literacy Coach

The Agenda for Children Literacy Initiative is an early literacy program supporting moms, dads and caregivers of children birth to age 8 in Cambridge, MA. Based at the Cambridge Public Health Department the Initiative is seeking an Outreach Coordinator/Literacy Coach.

The Outreach Coordinator/Literacy Coach is responsible for 1) Planning, organizing and leading program activities of Let's Talk!, particularly home visiting, workshops and playgroups. 2) Recruiting, hiring, training and supervising multi-lingual, multi-cultural Literacy Ambassadors (part-time staff). 3) Supporting early literacy development in Cambridge through the overall work of the Agenda for Children Literacy Initiative.

Click [HERE](#) for the full job description as well as the link to apply.

Fatherhood Project Coordinator

The Fatherhood Project Coordinator will reach out and connect with fathers (especially hard to reach fathers) who either live, learn, work, play, or pray in the City of Cambridge to encourage their participation in "Cambridge Dads" activities as well as Agenda for Children (AFC) early literacy and Center for Families (CFF) family support programming. This position will create opportunities to support fathers so they in turn are better able to support their children. The position is based at the Cambridge Public Health Department (CPHD) but the work will also take place at the Center for Families, Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP) as "Cambridge Dads" is a shared program.

Click [HERE](#) for the full job description as well as the link to apply.

The Early Years Project

As a key member of the Early Years Project Team, the Child Development Consultant provides child development and early childhood education expertise, consultation, and training in licensed center-based and family childcare settings, for infant through preschool programs.

[Child Development Consultant](#)

