



Arlington Family Connection

supporting children six and under and those who care for them

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www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

March 3, 10:30am-12:30pm Gibbs Gym – 41 Foster Street AFC’s Sizzlin’ Winter Beach Party Fundraiser!

Searching for something fun to do with your kids this winter...something that will bring you back to those warm summer days? Bring your family to play scorchin' hot games, create beachy crafts, munch yummy food, and win raffle prizes at AFC’s winter beach party! The sunny fun will take place at Gibbs Gym (41 Foster Street) on Saturday, March 3, from 10:30am-12:30pm. Enjoy Chilly Cow ice cream, pizza, crafts, and games—all included in the admission price of \$5/person (\$20/family max).



Bake Sale and Raffle

AFC will be donating proceeds from the party, and will also hold a nut-free bake sale and a raffle to raise money for the Arlington Food Pantry and the Arlington Libraries' Children’s Rooms. Raffle prizes include tickets to a Regent Theater show; a multi-visit pass to Together in Motion; a week's worth of dog walks from Blue Sky Dogs; a gym membership from Fitness First; gift baskets from Best Friend's Cocoa and the Basket Jeannie; gift certificates for The Book Rack, Wild Child Wild Women, Henry Bear's Park, Not Your Average Joe's, and Isis Maternity; and lots, lots more!

The party will be open to the public so bring friends (with kids under 6)! Don your beach attire and bring blankets and beach chairs for a picnic-style lunch. Please also consider bringing a non-perishable food or toiletry item for the Arlington Food Pantry. See you at the beach!

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to help staff this big event. If you can help us staff tables (entrance/raffle tickets, bake sale, membership), contribute to the bake sale, set up, or break down. Please contact Jessie at 617-460-9200 or events@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

New Indoor Toddler Gym Opens in Arlington

By Elizabeth Iwasaki

I couldn’t get Joni Mitchell out of my head the first time I visited Together in Motion—they’ve padded a parking lot (ok, a car dealership) and put up a toddler paradise.

When you walk through the doors of Together in Motion, located at 1 Broadway in East Arlington, there is no trace of the building’s former life as a Subaru dealership. In the warm, sunny lobby/lounge area, you’ll find bright colors, slate floors, comfortable seating, small tables where you can enjoy a snack or a short play break, and a fun display of perpetual motion machines. Parents can lounge here, watching their children through a large window while they relax with a cup of coffee, or even surf the Web using the free wi-fi connection.

On the other side of the window is the main attraction—a large room filled with balls of assorted sizes and enormous foam blocks in many shapes for climbing, building, sliding, and jumping. Because the floor is padded, even the most rambunctious toddler is relatively safe. In one corner there is a small, dedicated space where less-mobile infants can play without being trampled by an enthusiastic older child. And along the front wall kids can play hockey in a small “rink.”

Together in Motion makes a wonderful addition to the Arlington play scene. The gym is open to the public every weekday from 1:30-5pm and on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:30-11am. Admission is \$7 for children over 1 year; \$5 for children under 1; and free for babies under six months when accompanying a sibling. For information, visit www.togetherinmotion.com or call 781-643-1377.

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Guest Speakers at AFC Playtime!

AFC Playtime is a popular new drop in playgroup organized by AFC on Monday mornings. Join us for coffee, fun with toys and friends, closing circle time, and regular guest speakers. Mondays, 10-11:30am at the Arlington Enrichment Collaborative, 2nd Fl., 1100 Mass. Ave., Arlington. \$3/family

Upcoming guest speakers:

February 12 – Photo gift product feedback (and coupons!), Nicole Gallant from Photagio.

February 26 – La Leche League, Sara Padrusch

March 26 – Early Language Development, Kate Kapstad

April 23 – Robbins Library Children's Room Services, Marianne Uttam

Info: Sarah 781-316-8181 or

playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Directory

General Information - Amy Speare, 781-646-5417
info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Playtime - Sarah Albers
playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Book Club - Trish Richardson

Clerk - Margit Griffith

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Web Site - Seth Maislin
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Working Moms Group - Melanie Cooke, Su Joun & Teri Heard-Ralbovsky
workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Editorial policy: The Arlington Family Connection (AFC) newsletter is published monthly and is free with membership. Published articles reflect the views of the respective authors and do not necessarily represent the views of AFC. Childcare, healthcare and legal information is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended as a substitute for medical or professional advice. Always consult your own healthcare provider for any decisions relating to your child's well being. Copyright remains with the individual author for bylined articles. All other materials are copyright Arlington Family Connection, 2007. Permission is granted to reproduce articles for which copyright is held by AFC provided appropriate credit is given and no fee is charged. The AFC newsletter accepts submissions from AFC members on issues relevant to families with children six and under. The editorial board reserves the right to refuse submissions for any reason. Send editorial submissions to: newsletter@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org; calendar listings to calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

February 10, 10:00 am
Park Ave. Nursing Home

3rd Annual Valentine Project

Come join us at this fun, intergenerational project as residents and children create valentines together using a variety of art materials—paper and lace, glitter and sparkles, stickers and more! Just wear an old shirt and a smile and we'll supply the rest. Suggested for ages 3 and up but all family members welcome. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP recommended due to space limitations. For information or reservation, call Debra at (781) 643-2081 or e-mail community@arlingtonfamily.org

Welcome New Volunteers

Welcome (and a big thank you) to the following members who have recently volunteered to take on roles.

Teri Heard Ralbovsky is one of three new co-leaders for the Working Mothers Group. Teri brings both her experience as a working mother and her skills as a career and life coach to the group. She's lived in Arlington with her husband for over 8 years and has a 2½-year-old son.

Su Joun, a full-time business owner and full-time mother to two young boys, joins Teri as a co-leader for the Working Mothers Group group. She and her family have lived in Arlington Heights for 3 years.

Melanie Cooke is a full-time working mom with a 15-month-old daughter in daycare. She is excited about helping to lead the Working Moms Group with Teri and Su. Melanie lived in Arlington for two years.

Elizabeth Iwasaki will lend her writing skills to help write and edit articles for the AFC newsletter. Elizabeth has lived in Arlington for 6 years, and through AFC she's met more Arlingtonians in the last year than in the preceding 5 years combined. She has a 16-month old son.

Maf Terry has lead several AFC outings in recent months, and is also organizing a monthly craft activity. Maf is a 14-year Arlington resident. She lives with her 2½-year-old daughter, Annie, and her husband, Steve.

Working Mothers Group Update

AFC's Working Mothers Group has three new co-leaders who are gearing up to reshape the group in response to your requests and ideas. Teri Heard Ralbovsky, Su Joun, and Melanie Cooke look forward to supporting parents in AFC's membership who work outside the home or are planning do so in the future. In a few weeks, they'll be sending out a survey to collect your insights, ideas, and interests. In March, they will publish the survey findings and announce some preliminary plans for programming. In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like to provide input, please e-mail: workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Fun in a Smock

Ideas for Crafting with Kids

By Maf Terry

As a mother and preschool teacher, I've been making arts and crafts with young children for years. Over time, the kids and I developed strategies to help us stay organized, have fun, and even get "controlled" messy. I hope some of these ideas will intrigue you enough to seek out your inner artist and craft with your kids one "doldrum-y" afternoon.

Keep Realistic Expectations

The most important thing I've learned from young children is that the object of the arts and crafts experience is the *experience*. Handling the materials is what makes arts and crafts satisfying to a youngster, not creating a final product that is "pretty" or representational.

Set Up a Work Space

- Provide a good-sized table or work space where the child can sit or stand comfortably.
- If more than one child is creating, each should be able to reach the materials easily, which may mean multiple cups of glue or trays of beads.
- Invest in a wipe-able vinyl tablecloth. (Remember the flannel-backed kind from the 70s?) It's sturdier than newspaper, and more impermeable to spills.
- Find a comfortable smock that your child will actually wear. Some of the plastic ones on the market are itchy and cold; old T-shirts of Mom's or Dad's are comfy.
- "Containerize." Have materials organized in containers before beginning a project. Dixie cups and 8-oz yogurt containers work well for paint and glue. Small disposable food storage boxes, shoe-box lids, and styrofoam trays are terrific for containing and displaying collage materials, beads, and pom-poms.
- Wide, shallow containers allow all materials to be visible at once. Budding artists are inspired by what they can see.
- Cookie sheets with sides make great work trays when using messy or skittery materials.
- Dispense minimal shots of glue or paint. You can always add more.
- Tape the corners of the paper to your work surface.
- Have wet paper towels or a damp washcloth handy.
- Use paints that are clearly labeled washable. If it doesn't say washable, it *will* stain!

Use Tactile Activities

Many young children enjoy the opportunity to feel, squash, and manipulate materials. **Playdoh** is fantastic tactile play for young children of all ages.

Finger paints are delightful and allow for lots of expressive movement. If multiple colors of paint are offered, most children enjoy blending them together. Thus

February 14, 10:00-11:00 am

Fox Library

AFC Craft Time

Drop-in anytime to do fun, messy finger, worm and ooblek painting. Please bring a smock. \$2/child to cover supplies. 12 mo. & up. Maf 781-777-1994, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

it is the rare finger painting that does not end up a repugnant shade of greenish brown. Remember: it's about the experience. Important tip: The slick surface of finger paint paper is essential. The paint won't glide across the surface of other kinds of paper.

Here's a favorite activity of mine: Fill a jelly-roll pan with inexpensive **shaving cream** from the drugstore. Squoosh it around for a while, then add food coloring (one dot at a time!). Let your child experiment with spreading the pigment through the cream, or explore color mixing when another dot is added.



Another fun activity: make **ooblek**, a goo which is sometimes a solid and sometimes a liquid. Squeeze it, and it's hard. Release your hand, and it will ooze through your fingers. The recipe: Pour one box of cornstarch in a bowl. Mix in 1½ cups of water. Add food color, about 10 drops. For best effect, place into a shallow container for maximum squishing fun.

Try Collage

Collage is one of my favorite art activities for young children. The material choices are vast: paper (construction or tissue paper; cut greeting cards and wrapping paper scraps are excellent sources for bright, bold colors; magazine pictures; wallpaper scraps); yarn; ribbon scraps; small pom-poms; foam; fabric.

For the youngest crafter, I use contact paper or shelf-liner as the base of the project. Place it sticky side up on the work surface, or affix it to a piece of construction paper. No glue is necessary, and the pieces are easy to attach!

As the children get more facile with their fingers, use glue sticks and liquid glue, depending on the medium. Try dark background paper for collage—especially brown. The colors of the collaged pieces really pop!

Choose Appropriate Materials

- Use fat hefty paintbrushes, crayons, and markers that are comfortable in a toddler's hand. Crayons can be frustrating since they require a lot of pressure. Most young kids will get more bang for their efforts with a marker. The new "Pipsqueak" markers from Crayola are a good choice.

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Local Events & Activities

For even more resources refer to www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Arlington Venues

Arlington Boys and Girls Club, 60 Pond Lane, (Pleasant St. to Wellington St.). 781-648-1617. www.abgclub.org

Arlington Rec. Center & Veterans Memorial Rink, 422 Summer St. (Rt. 2A). 781-316-3880.
http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Recreation/index

Fidelity House, 25 Medford St. 781-648-2005.
www.fidelityhouse.org

Fox branch library, 175 Mass. Ave. (East Arlington, at Cleveland St.). 781-316-3198.
<http://www.robblinslibrary.org/html/fox.htm>

Gibbs Gym, 41 Foster St. (also accessible from Tufts St., between Mass. Ave. and Broadway). 781-316-3880.

Isis Maternity, 397 Mass. Ave., at Broadway. 781-429-1598. www.isismaternity.com

Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St. 781-646-4849.
www.regenttheatre.com

Robbins Library, 700 Mass. Ave. (near Pleasant St./Rt. 60). 781-316-3234. www.robblinslibrary.org

Special Events for Families

Gustafer Yellowgold's Wide Wide World
Sun, Feb. 4, 3 pm, Clarendon Presbyterian Church, 155 Powderhouse Blvd, Somerville. \$7. A multimedia show featuring Gustafer, a friendly outer-space creature who is the creation of singer-songwriter Morgan Taylor. 617-625-4823.
www.artssomerville.org

Boston Musica Viva Family Concert
Sun, Feb. 4, 3 pm. Tsai Performance Center at Boston University, 685 Commonwealth Ave., Bos. "Pinocchio's Adventures in Funland" and "The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses." 617-354-6910. www.bmv.org

Henry and Mudge
Sun., Feb. 4, 1 and 3 pm., Leventhal-Sidman JCC, 333 Nahant St., Newton Center. \$9/member; \$10/non-member. A new musical about friendship and the misadventures of a boy and his canine buddy. Based on the book series by Cynthia Rylant. 617-558-6522.
www.lsicc.org/home/cultural_magic.html

Swim & Pizza Parties
Tues, Feb. 6, 5:15-7:15 pm, Daddy/Daughter Swim and Pizza Party;
Fri, Feb. 9, 5:15-7:15, Mother/Son Swim and Pizza Party Arl. Boys and Girls Club. \$7/two people, \$1 ea. add'l child.
<http://abgclub.org/WebCalendar/month.php?date=20070201>

Daddy/Daughter Dance
Fri, Feb. 9, 6:30-8:30 pm, Gibbs Gym (snow date, Sat., Feb. 10, at Town Hall). \$5/ticket, available in advance at Rec. Center. Social for girls of all ages with fathers, grandfathers, uncles or other guardians.
www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_recnotices/2005RecreationNews/S007F14A1

Chinese New Year Spectacular
Sat, Feb. 10, 2 pm & 7:30 pm. Boston Opera House, 539 Washington St. Bos. \$35-\$85. Celebrate the arrival of the Year of the Pig! 617-880-9061. www.ntdtv.com

SteveSongs in concert
Sat, Feb. 10, 10:30 am, **Acton Children's School**, Parker Damon Building Cafetorium, 15 Charter Rd, Acton. \$8/advance; \$10/door. Free/12 mos and under. 978-263-9938.
3 pm, Natick Center for the Arts, 14 Summer St., Natick. Band show with Steve, the band and the Sillies. \$10/adults; \$8/children (\$1 add'l for online orders). www.stevesongs.com

Stories with Joey Talbert
Sat, Feb. 10, 10:30 am. Concord Youth Theatre, 358 Baker Ave., Concord. \$6. 45 minutes of seasonal stories. **Ages 3 and up**. 978-371-1482.
www.concordyouththeatre.org

For the Birds
Sun, Feb. 11, 1:30-3:30 pm, Garden in the Woods, 180 Hemenway Rd, North Framingham. \$7/member; \$9/non-member. Learn how birds survive cold and ways to help them. Build bird feeders and make a mini-field guide. Advance registration required. 508-877-7630.
www.newfs.org/courses/Child-Fam.html

Model Train Show
Sat, Feb. 17, 10am-5pm; Sun., Feb. 18, noon-5 pm. National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Rd., Rt. 2A, Lex. \$5/family, members; \$7/family, non-members. Northeast Ntrak Modular Railroad Club with its amazing display. 781-861-6559,
www.monh.org

Warm Words Storytelling Festival
Sat., Feb. 17-Mon, Feb. 19. Concord Museum, 200 Lexington Rd., Conc. Events and activities for all ages. Sunday's events celebrate Chinese culture; Monday's focus on Abraham Lincoln. Some sessions are free; others require tickets and/or reservations. See www.concordmuseum.org for complete schedule. 978-369-9763.

Greenhouse Kids' Time
Mon., Feb. 19, 1-4 pm, Margaret C. Ferguson Greenhouses, Wellesley College Botanic Gardens (Park in college Gray Lot). Free. **Ages 4 and up**. Visit a tropical environment in the middle of the winter! Crafts, explorations, scavenger hunts. 781-283-3642.
www.wellesley.edu/WCFH/Courses/WCFH%20FY07-edit1.pdf

Family Programs, National Heritage Museum Presidents Day: Mon, Feb. 19, 1-4 pm. National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Rd., Rt. 2A, Lex. \$5/family, members; \$7/family, non-members. Crafts and games that span the centuries. Make mini-log cabins, paper-bag teddy bears and more.
Game Day: Wed, Feb. 21, noon-4pm. Free. Challenge family and friends to a board game and see other toys and games throughout the museum. 781-861-6559, www.monh.org

Dinosaurs
Mon., Feb. 19, 11 am and 3 pm., Leventhal-Sidman JCC, 333 Nahant St., Newton Center. \$9/member; \$10/non-member. Puppeteer Jim West presents everyone's favorite prehistoric creatures. 617-558-6522.
www.lsicc.org/home/cultural_magic.html

Storytelling: Big Joe Visits Lexington
Mon, Feb. 19, 11:00 am, Jewish Preschool of Lexington, 9 Burlington St, Lexington. \$6/person at the door (\$30/max per family); \$5/person for tickets purchased in advance at Michelson's Shoes, Lexington Center; under 2 free. Facility is wheelchair accessible
Hailed as "One of the best in the business" by the Boston Globe, Big Joe has delighted children and parents across New England with his original and classic tales. Filled with fun and humor as well as puppets, props, and surprises, Big Joe's performance is not to be missed! 781-863-7211.
<http://www.BigJoe.com>

Vacation and Craft Club
Feb. 19-23, 9 am-noon. Gibbs Gym. **For children 4-7.** \$150. Multi-sports program, with arts&crafts, stories and songs. Bring snack & drink; no extended day available. 781-316-3000.
www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Recreation/Programs/tots

Habitat Vacation Week Programs
Daily programs, Feb. 20-23, 9am-3:30 pm. Habitat Wildlife Sanctuary, 10 Juniper Rd., Belmont. For children 5-11 years. \$50/mem; \$62/non-memb. Feb. 20; Tracks and Traces; Feb. 21, Science Wonders; Feb. 22, Sweet Sap; Feb. 23, Outdoor Creativity. 617-489-5050.
www.massaudubon.org

Mozart, Monsters & Matisse

Wed, Feb. 21, 10:30 am&12:30 pm. Sanborn Middle School, 835 Old Marlboro Rd, Concord. \$10. Multimedia show inspired by the music of Mozart and art of Matisse, with giant, friendly monsters in every scene. **Ages 4 and up.** Presented by Concord Youth Theatre. 978-371-1482. www.concordyouththeatre.org

Anansi, Spiderman of Africa!

Sat, Feb. 24, 2-4 pm. National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Rd., Rt. 2A, Lex. \$6/child, \$8/adult, member; \$8/child, \$10/adult, non-member. The Crabgrass Puppet Theater performs a humorous tale. 781-861-6559, www.monh.org

SteveSongs in concert

Sat., Feb. 24, 10 am&1pm, Cohen Auditorium, Tufts University; Talbot Ave., Medford/Somerville campus. \$7/advance; \$9/door. Available at Cohen box office, 9am-5pm daily, or 617-627-3493. To benefit Eliot Pearson Children's School Scholarship Fund. www.stevesongs.com

Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra Family Concert

Sun, Feb. 25, 3 pm, Arlington Town Hall. "Musical Hats." Music by Elgar, Bizet, Copland, Strauss, Beethoven, Badett; featuring Avery Yen, cellist, 2006 Young Artist Competition Wood Prize winner. www.psarlington.org/schedule.htm

Wind Ensemble Children's Concert

Sun, Feb. 25, 3 pm. Granoff Music Center, Tufts University, Talbot Ave, Medford campus. Free. **Grades K-4.** 617-627-2253. www.tufts.edu/as/music/concerts.htm#FEB

Baby Loves Disco

Sun, Feb. 25, 2-5 pm, Revolution Rock Bar, 200 High St., Boston. www.revolutionrockbar.com \$12 (non-walkers, free). Child-proof disco/dance party with music by the legendary DJ Korn. Snacks by Wild Oats/bar available for mom & dad. Held last Sunday of the month. For tickets, www.babylovesdisco.com

Sing-alongs & Music

Mondays

5 pm. Finagle a Bagel, 91 Middlesex Tpke., Burlington. Ed Morgan performs fun original and classic children's songs. Free. 781-273-6500, www.finagleabagel.com

Tues, Feb. 6, 13

10 a.m. Robbins Library. **Babies to 36 months.** Join either Liz Buchanan or Sulinha for songs and singing games. As space is limited, numbers are given out on the day of the program beginning at 9 a.m.

Thu, Feb. 1

10 am, Fox Library, Songs and singing games with Sulinha. **Infants and Preschoolers.**

Thu, Feb. 15

4 pm, Fox Library. Join Jean Schwartz for "Songs and Books," a concert of songs that are linked to books. **For ages 3-7.** Drop-in. **2nd & 4th Fri. of the month** 10am Calvary United Methodist Church, 300 Mass Ave, Arl. Sing-along with Diane Taraz. \$1. 781-648-3719, www.dianetaraz.com

Saturdays

11 am Stellabella Toys, 1360 Cambridge St., Inman Sq., Camb. Join local musicians, sing songs, play games. **All ages.** Free. 617-491-6290.

Storytimes & Library Programs

Robbins Library/Toddlers

Mon., Feb. 5, 12, 10:30am **18 mos-2 ½ yrs** with an adult. Stories, rhymes, fingerplays followed by play & simple craft. Drop-in.

Robbins Library/Preschoolers

Mon., Feb. 5, 12. 11 am. Stories and fingerplays, followed by a craft. Drop-in.

Fox Library/Lap-sit

Tues., Feb. 6, 13, 10:30 am **For infants to age 2.** Brief stories, songs, games and play.

Robbins Library/3-5 year olds

Wed., Feb. 7, 14. 10:30 am. Longer stories, rhymes, fingerplays and craft.

Fox Library/2 and up

Thu, Feb, 8, 15, 10:30 am. Winter story times, followed by a craft. Drop-in.

Robbins Library/Spanish

Fri, Feb. 16, 10 am. Stories in Spanish for children **2-5** w/ Susanna Cenanovic. Drop-in.

Valentine Craft-Heartholders

Sat., Feb. 3, 2-4 pm. Robbins Library. All ages welcome; younger children may need adult help. Drop-in.

Celebrate the Authors

Tues, Feb. 6, 2-4 pm. Robbins Library. Jane Yolen (author for all ages including the "How do Dinosaurs..." books); Bill Peet ("Cyrus the Sea Serpent) and Norman Bridwell ("Clifford the Big Red Dog.") Stories, crafts and snacks. All ages. Drop-in.

Creating Together

Weds, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28., Robbins Library. 4-4:45 pm. Parent-child art classes with Marina Strauss. **For ages 2-4.** Please sign up for all four classes.

International Games

Wed, Feb. 7, 4-5 pm. Fox Library. Play games of South America. Fun, snacks, friends. All ages.

Chinese Folk Tales

Sat, Feb. 10, 2-3 pm., Robbins Library. **For ages 4-10.** With Chinese Culture Connection storyteller. Space is limited; pick up a ticket beginning at 9 am.

Chinese New Year's Party

Tue, Feb. 20, 2-4 pm. Fox Library. **All ages.** Celebrate w/ traditional decorations & snacks.

Top Secret Science

Wed, Feb. 12, 9:30-11 am., Robbins Library. **Ages 5-11.** Hands-on experiments to make and take home. Space is limited. Sign up beginning Feb. 7.

Barefoot Books

Fri. & Sat. 10:30 am. **Ages 1 & up.** 1771 Mass. Ave., Camb. A fun hour of age-appropriate stories. Coloring and refreshments. Free. 617-349-1610, www.barefootbooks.com

Barnes & Noble

98 Middlesex Tpke., Burlington. Pre-schoolers – Tues. at 10:30 am Pajamarama – Fri. at 7pm Free. 781-273-3871.

Concord Museum Story Hour

Fri., Feb. 9, 1 pm. Concord Museum, 200 Lexington Rd., Conc., **3-5 years;** adult/child program, \$5/pair, members, \$8/pair, non-members. Story (this month, "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish) activity, snack. Registration required. 978-369-9763. www.concordmuseum.org

Harvard Coop

Tues.& Sat., 11 am 1400 Mass. Ave., Camb. Preschool story hour with snack and craft. Free. 617-499-2000, <http://harvard.bkstore.com>

Henry Bear's Park

Thurs. 11 am. **Ages 3-6.** Free. 685 Mass. Ave., Arl. 781-646-9400 and 361 Huron Ave., Camb. 617-547-8424, www.henrybear.com

Mornings at the Museum

Thu, Feb. 8, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Rd., Rt. 2A, Lex. **Ages 4 and under.** \$3/child, member; \$5/child, non-member. We'll read "The Shopping Basket" and "A Birthday Basket for Tia," followed by a basket-making craft. 781-861-6559, www.monh.org

Porter Square Books

Wed., 11 am Porter Sq. Shopping Ctr., Camb. Free. 617-491-2220, www.portersquarebooks.com

Pottery Barn Kids

Tues., 10 am Check store for details. Free. Burlington Mall. 781-221-5833.

NEW! Winterfun at Bedford Farms, Concord

Tues, 3:30-4:30 pm. 80 Thoreau St., Concord. Free. Drop-in story and arts & crafts for toddlers and preschoolers. Each week will have a different theme. 978-341-0000. www.bedfordfarmsicecream.com or bedfordfarms@comcast.net

Other Arlington Fun Stuff

Arl. Boys & Girls Club

Through Feb. 27 Tues., 10:30-11:15 a.m. Parent & Tot Drop-in Swim, \$4/child (membership required). Fri, 5:30 – 6:15 p.m., drop-in Family Swim free for members. Also offers variety of programs for ages 6 mo. & up. \$20/annual child membership, plus fee for programs. www.abgclub.org

Arlington Center for the Arts

41 Foster St., Arl. Preschool, homeschool, and after-school classes for ages 5 & up. Jewelry-making, drama & improv, drawing, painting, songwriting, pottery, cartooning, more. 781-648-6220, www.acarts.org

Fidelity House

Offers many programs for young children, including a tot playgroup (drop-in or class) Fridays at 9:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m., \$5 drop-in, \$20/session. Also, pre-school sports, and gymnastics. No membership required for children up through kindergarten. Fees may apply for each class. www.fidelityhouse.org

MOMfitters

Through March 1. MOMswim 9:45am – 10:30am and PreMOMswim 10:30-11:15 (5 week sessions), Arl. Boys & Girls Club. For babies 4 months to 24 months and women at all stages of pregnancy. \$60 for Boys & Girls members; \$75 for non-members. Register: <http://www.abgclub.org/>

Music Together

Explore what music sounds like, looks like and feels like. 10-week classes for child and caregivers. 781-648-4084, www.musictogetherofarlington.com/

Parent and Tot Connection

Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m. Arl. Boys & Girls Club. Drop-in playgroup for toddlers and preschoolers with caregiver. Play, crafts, stories, music. Free. www.abgclub.org

UPDATED! Public Skating

Until March 16, Veterans Memorial Rink, Fri.: 11am-1pm, 2:45-4:45pm, 7-9pm; Sat.: 4-6pm; Sun.: 9:30-11:30am, 2-4pm. **Special Mother-Son Skate, Fri, Feb. 9, 2:45-4:45 pm; Presidents Day, Mon., Feb. 19, noon-2pm; School Vacation, Wed, Feb. 21, noon-2 pm. No public skate Sat, Feb. 24.** \$3/child under 16, \$6/adult. Skating with crates allowed Fri. mornings. 781-316-3880,

www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Recreation/rink.

Puddlestompers Playgroup

Tues. 10:30am-12:30pm. Drop-in pre-school playgroup. Occasional field trips, meets outside at playgrounds. Meets in the Fox Library in inclement weather (\$1/family donation requested). Susan, 781-641-3792 or sedorson@yahoo.com.

UPDATED! Regent Theatre Family Fun Shows

www.regenttheatre.com

Sat., Feb. 3, 10:30 am: Scott Kepnes Funky Jam Band. \$7/adults; \$5/kids, seniors. Blend of folk, rock and stories.

Sat., Feb. 10, 10:30 am, Margot Fox. \$7/adults; \$5/kids&seniors. Come hop, dance and twirl with the whole family. **Co-sponsored by AFC.**

Sat., Feb. 17, 10:30 am. Rumpelstiltskin. \$10/adults; \$8/kids, seniors. The Makeshift Theatre company presents the misadventures of the Misdirected Players, as they attempt to present a famous fairy tale.

www.makeshifttheatre.com

Sat., Feb. 24, 10:30 am. Liz Buchanan's Island Party. \$7/adults; \$5/kids, seniors. Traditional island song and dance, from Liz's new play, "Music Island."

Toddlers and Twos

Wed. & Fri. 9:30-11am., through May 4. Gibbs Gym, Tufts St. Arl. Indoor gym for ages 15 mos-3 yrs. with parent. Drop-in for \$5/visit or purchase a punch ticket at Arl. Rec Office (422 Summer St.) for \$45/10 visits.

NEW! Together in Motion

Together in Motion, 1 Broadway, E. Arl. Newly opened, drop-in play space with 3 areas for: crawlers, open play; organized game. Ages 0-6. **Weekdays, Drop-In Motion & More, 1:30-5 pm. Sat&Sun, 9-11 am.** \$7/ages 1-6; \$5, 6-12 mos; under 6 mos, free with playing sibling. 781-643-1377. www.togetherinmotion.com

Arlington Rec. Dept.

Offers a number of programs for children: skating, indoor gym playtime, cooking classes, arts & crafts, gymnastics, sports. www.town.Arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Recreation/index

Artbeat Weekend Workshops

212-A Mass Ave., Arl. Saturday drop-in program from 3-6pm. Different themed craft each week, focusing on world cultures. \$10-20/ project. Ages 4 & up. **Feb. 3, Gifts from the Heart; Feb. 5-9 Valentine Making; Feb. 10, Sweet Notes; Feb. 18, Year of the Pig; week of Feb. 19, Fabric Magic; Feb. 24, Stained Glass Suncatcher.** 781-646-2200, www.artbeatonline.com

Capitol Theater Movies for caregivers with babies Mon., new movie chosen weekly starting between 1-2pm, \$4.50/ adult. Nursing, bottle feeding, fussing, changing diapers are never frowned upon. 204 Mass Ave., Arl. 781-648-6022. www.somervilletheatreonline.com

Isis Maternity

Programs and products for expecting parents, babies and toddlers. Infant CPR training. **AFC membership discount: 1st month free.** www.isismaternity.com

Kindermusik

Music and movement classes for parents and children ages 0-7. Refer to Website for class locations. 800-628-5687, www.kindermusik.com

MommaStroll

Thursdays 8:30-9:30am. Meet other moms for brisk walking, simple stretching. Sign-in at Isis Maternity at 8:15am. \$4.50/ members; \$5/non-members. www.isismaternity.com

Indoor Play Spaces

Bedford Family Connection Playroom

Mon.- Fri. 9:30-11:30am. First Parish Church, 75 Great Rd., Bedford. Members: .50/ child; non-memb.: \$2/child. <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/rlcww/BFC.htm> 781-275-5231.

Belmont KidSpace

Mon & Thu., 1-5pm, Fri. 5-8pm, Sat. 9am-noon; 2nd, 3rd, 4th Sunday of the month, 2-5pm. Payson Park Church, 365 Belmont St., Bel. Parent-run cooperative for ages 5 and under. Membership, \$45/family/season. Single first-time visit, \$10. Donna Ruvolo, 617-489-5446; www.belmontkidspace.org.

Gymnastics Academy of Boston

Open Gym Mon.-Fri. 11:30am -1 pm; drop-in and explore. \$5/member; \$8/non-memb. 617-441-9700, www.gymnasticacademy.com

UPDATED! LPPTA WinterFun

Lexington Preschool PTA's drop-in arts and crafts program for ages 5 and under. Alternate Weds. during the school year, 9:30-11 am, Bowman School cafeteria, 9 Philip Rd., Lex. \$2/child. **Feb. 7, Be My Valentine; Feb. 28, Circus Time.** Wendy Bertsekas, 781-862-1298, wkbert@mac.com. www.lppta.org.

Winterpark

Fri, 9:30-11 am; Waldorf School, 739 Mass Ave., Lex.; ages 0-3. Drop-in parent/child playgroup. \$5-\$10 donation. 781-863-1062. www.thewaldorfschool.org/home/home.asp

Winchester Rec. Playtime

Thu, 9:30-11 am. Mystic School, 263 Main St., Win. 9 mos-4 years. \$5/family. Drop-in playtime, games & toys provided. 781-721-7125.

TumbleKids Open Gym

Fri. 12:30-2pm, Winchester & Waltham locations. \$10/child. Classes also offered for add'l fee. 201 Arl. St., Watertown, 617-926-2640 and 38 River St., Winchester, 781-721-1144. www.tumblekidsusa.com/

Kids Playground

15 Normac Rd, Woburn. Indoor playground with play space, tubes & tunnels, mini golf. 781-935-2300, www.kidsplayground.com

Perpetual Motion

345 Chelmsford St., Lowell. (Off Rt. 3). Indoor playground for kids 6 & under. 978-452-0777, www.perpetualmotioninc.com

Beyond Arlington

Puppet Showplace Theatre

Sat. & Sun., 1 & 3pm shows; Wed. & Thurs. 10:30am show. 32 Station St., Brookline. Recommended for age 3 & up. Age appropriateness varies per show. \$7.50/ members, \$9.50/non-members. 617-731-6400, www.puppetshowplace.org

Babes in the Woods

Tues. 10am. Middlesex Fells. Strolls & hikes through the park. Free. 781-396-8994, www.fells.org

Home Depot Kid's Workshop

First Sat. of the month. 10am-12pm. Home Depot, 10 1st Ave., Waltham. Drop-in build-it-yourself project. Ages 2 & up, with an adult. 781-672-0900.

Play Academy

25 Riverside Ave., Medford. Offers classes for infants to age 5; drop-off program. 781-738-PLAY, www.play-academy.com/

Pre-school movies

Tuesdays, 10:30am. Cary Mem. Library, 1874 Mass. Ave., Lex. Drop-in movies for ages 2-6. Free. 781-862-6288, www.caryllibrary.org

Local Attractions

Boston Children's Museum Closed through spring 2007 for renovation/expansion.

300 Congress St., Boston. Open daily. Hands-on approach to history, science, etc.; toddler PlaySpace. www.bostonkids.org.

Children's Discovery Museum

177 Main St., Acton. Victorian house with transformed into 10 hands-on exhibit areas. Ages 6 & under. Check Website for special programs. \$8, Free/under 1. 978-264-4200, www.discoverymuseums.org

Concord Museum

200 Lexington Rd, Concord. Open daily. \$8/adults, children under 6 free. Historical, literary, artistic treasures of the area. Monthly storytimes and children's programs. (978) 369-9763. www.concordmuseum.org

Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary

208 S. Great Rd, Lincoln. Explore the fields, forest and farmyard. Weekly programs for kids. Closed non-holiday Mon. Members free, \$6/Non-memb. adult, \$4/Non-memb. ages 3-12. 781-259-2200, www.massaudubon.org

Ecotarium

222 Harrington Way, Worcester. Monthly family preschool programs. Members free, \$8/Non-member adult, \$6/Non-member ages 3-18. Explorer Express Train ride, \$2.50/person. 508-929-2700, www.ecotarium.org

Habitat Wildlife Sanctuary

10 Juniper Rd, Belmont. Trails wind through forests, across meadows, around 2 ponds, wetlands. Programs for kids. Members free, \$4/non-memb. adult, \$3/non-memb. child. 617-489-5050, www.massaudubon.org

UPDATED! Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St, Cambridge. Wide array of stuffed animals in the mammal exhibit. 40ft dinosaur replica. \$7.50/adult, \$5/ages 3-18. Free 3-5pm Weds. from Sept. –May and every Sun. 9am-noon. “Saturday Scholars” programs for ages 4-5, w/adult; and grades K and up. Advance registration necessary. 617-495-3045, www.hmn.harvard.edu

NEW! Institute of Contemporary Art

ADDRESS. Free Family Fun Playdates, last Saturday of every month, 10 am-4 pm. Feb. 24, Extreme Paradise: Create vision of paradise with artist Silvina Mizrahi, or watch/participate in performance by STREB Extreme Action. Program and admission free to adults accompanied by child 12 and under. 617-478-3234. www.icaboston.org

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston. Family Place, for families with children 4 and up, interactive art activities. Wed-Fri, 3-4:45 pm; Sat-Sun, 11 am-4 pm. 617-267-9300. www.mfa.org

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston. Open daily. Hands-on Discovery Zone, with Children’s Gallery for those 5 and under. 617-723-2500. www.mos.org

National Heritage Museum

33 Marrett Rd., Rt. 2A, Lex. Great monthly programs including storytimes with crafts. 781-861-6559, www.monh.org

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf, Boston. Open daily Aqua Kids Family Days for young children on the 1st and 3rd Mondays; various Preschool Explorer programs. 617-973-5200. www.neaq.org

Stone Zoo

149 Pond St., Stoneham. Small zoo, with a petting barnyard, playground, lots of animal exhibits. \$7.50/Adult, \$4.50/Ages 2-12. 781-438-5100, www.zoonewengland.com

UPDATED! Take a Walk at Gore Place

52 Gore St., Waltham. Mon – Fri, 9am to 3pm; Sat. Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 11 am-2pm. Visit llama, sheep, goats, chickens, rabbits. Rent an “activity pack” with activities appropriate for children ages 4-9. Children’s snowshoes available for rental when weather permits. Backpack rental, \$5. 781-894-2798 www.goreplace.org

Seminars & Open Houses

Quirky Kids: Understanding and Supporting Young Children Who Don’t Easily Fit in

Tues, Feb. 6 (snow date, Feb. 7), Bishop School, Columbia Rd, Arl, 7-8:30 pm. For parents of children preschool to grade 5. Presented by Dr. Eileen Costello, pediatrician, Boston University Medical School, and author of “Quirky Kids.”

What is a Family?

Thu, Feb. 8, 7-8:30 pm, Lesley Ellis School, 41 Foster St., Arl. Talk by Gigi Kaeser of The Family Diversity Project. www.leslevellis.org

Children and Computers: What is the Recommended Daily Allowance?

Sun, Feb. 11, 2-5 pm; Museum of Science, Science Park, Bos. Free. For parents of children 3-10. The impact computers have on children’s development and how much of a role they should play in children’s lives. Refreshments provided. 617-589-4250. www.mos.org/doc/2047

Childhood Overweight

Thu, Feb. 15, (snow date, Feb. 28), 7-8:30 pm, Brackett School, Eastern Ave., Arl. For parents of children grades K-12. Presented by Margaret Lovesky, RD. A look at current medical research on child overweight and practical advice for parents.

Effective Parenting

Groups forming now. Workshop designed for parents of children 0-3. Explore different parenting topics each week. \$140/person, \$180/couple. Melissa Lucius, 781-641-4284, parenting@rcn.com or www.effective-parenting.org

Benefits

Kans for Kids

Sat. Feb. 3, 10 am –1 pm Recreation Office, 422 Summer St., Arl. Donate clean returnable bottles and cans to benefit Arl. rec. youth activities. 781-316-3880.

PTO Thrift Shop for Arl. Public Schools

Wed. 4-8 p.m., Thurs. 9:30 a.m. -1 p.m., 2nd Sat. of the month 12:30-5 p.m. Basement of the Fox Library. Gently-used clothing for all ages, toys, books, housewares, more. 781-483-3433, www.ptothriftshop.com

Groups

40-something Moms Group

For moms of babies and/or young kids (moms-to-be welcome). Led by a licensed therapist with a specialty in women’s issues, and an older mom herself. Meets monthly in North Cambridge. \$25/meeting. Suzan Wolpow, 617 441-0758 or yourclearvoice@msn.com

Arl. Area Adoption Moms

Thu, Feb. 1; Wed. Feb. 21. 7:30 pm, Open to all adoptive mothers in Arlington and nearby communities. Location TBA. Contact Rachel Silverman, 781-641-2947, rachelannathome@yahoo.com.

New Mothers’ Group

Tues. 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Sunrise Senior Living, 24 Mall Road, Burl. Sponsored by the Parent Connection of BIDMC. Free. 8 week sessions. 617-667-2229.

Belmont Food Allergy & Asthma Support Group

Parents group meets monthly to discuss and advocate for children living with food allergies and asthma. Theresa Normile, 617-489-6668, Tnormile@foodallergyfacts.com

Breastfeeding Drop-in Group

Thurs. 1pm. Isis Maternity, Free. For nursing moms and babies. Staffed by certified lactation consultant. www.isismaternity.com

Drop-in Playgroups

Non-mobile babies – Thurs., 3:30pm
Mobile babies – Weds, 3:30pm
Isis Maternity, Free for Isis members, \$5/non-members. www.isismaternity.com (Please note, new days; same times.)

La Leche League

An int’l, nonprofit, org. dedicated to providing education, info. and support to breastfeeding women. Arl. meetings at Fox Library at 7:30 p.m. on the 3rd Tues. of ea. month. One morning meeting is held in Camb. on 2nd Thurs. of the month at 10 a.m., 175 Harvey St., Cambridge. Free. Heather 781-648-2988, <http://home.comcast.net/~jrsladkey/lll/index.html> For listing of Mass. Leagues, www.llusa.org/MARIVT/Massachusetts.html

Learn & Play Adoption Group

1st Wed. of month, 10-11:30am. Sept.–June. Community Agencies Bldg., Emerson Hosp., 111 Old Rd. to 9 Acre Corner, Concord. For parents and adopted children 0 - 5 yrs. Facilitated by First Connections. Registration requested. \$30. 978-287-0221, www.jri.org/cfys/

New Moms Group

Wednesdays, 11am. Beaver Brook Pediatrics, 411 Waverly Oaks Rd., Waltham. Free sessions run for 5 weeks. 781-891-3706.

New Mothers’ Drop-in Group

Fri. 10-11:30am, Calvary United Methodist Church, 300 Mass Ave., Arl. Free, nonsectarian, facilitated. Spon. by Jewish Family & Children’s Svcs. 617-558-1278.

Older First-Time Moms

Third Wed. of ea. month, 7 p.m. Fox Library. Social and support group for first-time moms in their late 30’s and 40’s. Free. \$1 donation suggested. 781-674-2029.

Grandparents’ Support Group

Second Tues. of the month, 12-1:30pm. For grandparents who are primary caretakers of their grandchildren. Free, sponsored by the Town of Arl. 781-316-3410.

Fun in a Smock, Continued from page 3

- Provide large sheets of newsprint or construction paper for painting and beginner drawers.
- Find large beads in local craft stores and use pipe cleaners as the “string” for first-time beaders. As the child gains dexterity, switch to yarn or stretchy string.
- When it snows, fill up a cookie sheet with snow and paint right on the snow.
- Use dark papers with chalks to draw snow falling.

Lastly, leave plenty of time to create, but don’t expect anything. Your child may spend an hour on a project, or be done in 5 minutes. Relaxed exposure is the key to fun. And keep those wet paper towels handy!

Maf Terry organizes monthly craft activities for AFC. She lives in Arlington with her 2½-year-old daughter, Annie, and her husband, Steve.

Arlington Family Connection
P.O. Box 150
Arlington, MA 02476

February, 2007

AFC Membership/Renewal Form

New member **Renewal** Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address(es): _____

Newsletter Delivery Preference:

US Mail Email Both

Would you like to get occasional AFC email?

Yes No, please send the newsletter only

Please list your child(ren): (if applicable)

Name Gender Date of Birth (mo/year)

School District:

(circle one for geographic location)

Bishop Brackett Dallin Hardy

Peirce Stratton Thompson Out-of-Town

Volunteer and Activity Interests

(check all that apply)

Events/Parties New Parent Outreach
 Newsletter Outings with Kids Playgroups
 Outings without Kids Seminars Web Site
 Email Bulletin Childcare & Preschool Options
 Publicity Membership Working Moms
 Community Service Kindergarten Connections
 Treasurer/Clerk Other _____

Would you like to be contacted about volunteering?

Yes No

Membership Fees: All memberships renew in September, 2007.

Please circle the month you are joining:

\$20 (August/September/October)
\$15 (November/December/January)
\$10 (February/March/April)
\$5 (May/June/July)

Please mail membership form and check to:

Arlington Family Connection
P.O. Box 150
Arlington, MA 02476