



# Arlington Family Connection

supporting children six and under and those who care for them

Volume VI, Issue 4 • June 2007

[www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](http://www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

## AFC's Working Mothers' Group Re-launched

After a survey of AFC's working mothers, the Working Mother's Group was re-launched with a meeting on April 18. Survey results showed that AFC's working mothers want structured, weeknight meetings with career and special interest discussions. Survey respondents voted not to include fathers (sorry, dads!) or bring children.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 20, 7:30-8:30pm at the Arlington Enrichment Collaborative, 1100 Mass. Ave., Arlington. Future monthly meetings will be held at the same time and place. Each meeting will have a theme or topic and an informal agenda will be emailed ahead of time. There will be no meetings in July or August. After the summer break, group leaders plan to invite guest speakers to meetings.

A Yahoo group has also been created to foster on-going communication between the attendees. Please email Melanie and Su with any questions or suggestions at [workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

### Save the Date!

**July 22, 11:00am**

**Elm Bank Horticultural Center, Wellesley**

**Circus Smirkus:**

**Zoot Suit Caper**

Join AFC's annual outing to the only touring youth circus in the country. This professional, high energy, and entertaining one-ring Big Top circus of Smirkus troupers ages 10-18 is not to be missed!

([www.circussmirkus.org](http://www.circussmirkus.org)). Bring your friends and family.

AFC has reserved a block of tickets for this general admission event: \$16.25/person (under 2 free) for this all-ages show on **Sunday, July 22, 11am** at the Elm Bank Horticultural Center, 900 Washington St. (Rt 16), Wellesley. Tickets reserved on a first-come first-served basis. **Deadline to reserve tickets is June 29.** Info: Jessie at 617-460-9200 or [events@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:events@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)



## A Precious Resource for AFC Parents

It may not glitter like gold, but parents of young children will be sure to find AFC's latest member benefit to be just as valuable! This June AFC will publish a new on-line directory of trained, experienced, and pre-screened baby-sitters. The directory is being developed and maintained by Arlington Enrichment Collaborative director, Kim Holt. Many sitters on the list are students in Kim's after-school program and have been through her babysitter training.



For a small fee, AFC parents can access a secure website to find profiles and contact information for local babysitters and mothers' helpers. All babysitters on the list are required to go through Red Cross babysitter training, the AEC babysitter mentoring program, or provide proof of experience and references.

In addition to the directory, AFC will also offer a helpful how-to guide to help parents through the process of hiring a new babysitter. It will provide a list of questions to ask when interviewing a potential babysitter, a suggested pay scale, and lots more.

Enjoy time alone with your spouse or a night out with friends while an experienced, pre-screened babysitter takes care of things at home. Watch for an email announcement of the AFC Babysitter Directory later this month!

Do you know an experienced babysitter who would like to be included on the new AFC Babysitter Directory? Contact Kim Holt, 781-643-4794 or [kim@arlingtonenrichment.org](mailto:kim@arlingtonenrichment.org)

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## AFC Playtime Summer Break

AFC Playtime will take a break for the summer. The last Playtime will be on Monday, June 18, from 10-11:30. We hope to see you all again in September! In the meantime, AFC's free monthly drop-in playgroup at the Fox library will continue on the first Tuesday of every month, 3:30-5.

### AFC Playtime

Mondays, 10-11:30am (through June 18) Arl. Enrichment Collaborative, 2nd Fl., 1100 Mass. Ave., Arlington.  
\$3/family. Info: Sarah 781-316-8181,  
[playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

## Calling All Gardeners...

Help us beautify Arlington! We need volunteers to take over the planting and care of AFC's large planters outside of Brigham's in Arlington Heights. Contact Amy Speare, 781-646-5417



[info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

### AFC Directory

**General Information** - Amy Speare, 781-646-5417  
[info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**AFC Playtime** - Sarah Albers  
[playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Book Club** - Trish Richardson

**Clerk** - Margit Griffith

**Community Service** - Lauren Boyle  
[community@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:community@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**e-Bulletin** - Ruth Schmidt  
[bulletinboard@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:bulletinboard@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Events** - Jessie Keating  
[events@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:events@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Kindergarten Connections** - Helene Ragovin  
[kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Membership** - Leah Nelson and Molly Sanford  
[membership@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:membership@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Newsletter Editors** - Annette Donnelly and Carrie Finison  
[newsletter@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:newsletter@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Newsletter Calendar** - Aimee Linker and Louise Friel  
[calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Options in Childcare & Preschool booklet** - Kristen Strechay  
[options@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:options@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Outings** - Amy Speare  
[outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Seminars** - Maureen Igoe  
[seminars@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:seminars@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Treasurers** - Ruth Kirby and Cynthia Murray  
[treasurer@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:treasurer@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Web Site** - Seth Maislin  
[webmaster@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:webmaster@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Working Moms** - Melanie Cooke and Su Joun  
[workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

## Thanks to New Volunteers

AFC thanks the following volunteers who have recently joined AFC or taken on new volunteer roles.

**Martina Vanha** will be assisting with outings and will also help organize monthly playground outings for AFC families. Martina and her family (including Jonathan, 5, Janina, almost 4, and baby Joshua, 6 months) moved to Arlington from Switzerland a year and a half ago. Formerly, Martina worked as a psychologist, mostly with families and children.

Two new editors are taking over AFC's monthly local events calendar in the newsletter. **Aimee Linker** brings her enthusiasm for activities and her knowledge of early childhood education to the role. She was a nanny before she became a mother. She lives in Arlington Center with her husband and 16-month-old daughter. **Louise Friel** joins her as co-editor, having moved to Arlington in August of last year. Her son is now 4 months old and she looks forward to meeting other parents and making new friends by volunteering for AFC.

Many thanks to **Helene Ragovin James** for all her hard work and attention to detail on the newsletter and calendar! Helene continues to volunteer with AFC as this year's Kindergarten Connections coordinator.

**Carrie Murphy** has taken over newsletter mailing responsibilities from Molly Sanford. She has been a resident of Arlington for seven years and loves living in this great town with her husband and two very active children, David, 4, and Claire 3, both in preschool. Carrie is also volunteering to be the Kindergarten Connections contact for Pierce school.

## Volunteers Needed!

### Childcare & Preschool Options Committee

Each year, AFC updates its popular "Childcare and Preschool Options in Arlington" booklet and hosts an open house where parents and caregivers meet with representatives from preschool and daycare facilities in town. The booklet lists all licensed daycare and preschool providers in Arlington and details how, when, and who to contact for applications or further information. The open house, or "Options Night", is one of the most anticipated and well-attended events of the year and the booklet has sold more copies than ever.

We are seeking two to three volunteers to help update the booklet and run the "Options Night" open house. The booklet is published in mid-September and the open house is held in early October.

Help us make this year's book and event a success! For details on responsibilities and time required, please contact Kristen Strechay directly at 781-643-1184 or email [options@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:options@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org) to volunteer.

## Kindergarten Connections: Upcoming Events

AFC's enthusiastic Kindergarten Connections volunteers have scheduled several playdates for soon-to-be kindergartners and their families during June and the rest of the summer. Come out to the playground or the park, meet other kindergarten families, and make new friends!

The following events are for children who will be entering kindergarten in September (additional events will be listed in upcoming newsletters and e-bulletins).

### Bishop

Sat. June 9: 9-10:30am, Bishop School playground

Thurs. June 21: 10-11:30am, Menotomy Rocks Park playground

**Contact:** Anne Murray, [anne.dwight@verizon.net](mailto:anne.dwight@verizon.net); 781-643-6483



### Brackett

Wed. June 6: 5-7pm, Robbins Farm Playground

Thurs. June 21: 10am-noon, Menotomy Rocks Park Playground.

Sat. June 30: 5-7pm at Brackett Playground

Tues. July 10: 5-7pm, Robbins Farm Playground

Sat. July 21: 10am-noon, Brackett Playground

Sun. Aug. 12: noon-2pm, Menotomy Rocks Park Playground

Mon. Aug. 27: 5-7pm, Brackett Playground

Fri. Sept. 7: 5-7pm, Robbins Farm Playground for a Family Potluck Picnic

**Contact:** Paula Kirtley, [paula@spiffy.com](mailto:paula@spiffy.com); 781-643-4229.

### Dallin

Tues, June 5: 5-7pm, Dallin Kindergarten Playground. Bring a picnic dinner if you'd like!

Fri. June 8: 3pm, Dallin Kindergarten Playground

Sun, June 24: 3-5pm, Dallin School Kindergarten Playground

Thurs, July 12: 5-7pm, Dallin School General Playground & Fields. Bring a picnic dinner if you'd like.

Sun. July 22: 3-5pm, Dallin School Kindergarten Playground

Tues. Aug. 14: 4:30-6pm, Dallin School Kindergarten Playground

Mon. Aug. 20: 3-5pm, Dallin School Kindergarten Playground

**Contact:** Julia Carpenter-Conlin, 781-648-0639; [bradjulialucy@rcn.com](mailto:bradjulialucy@rcn.com)

### Hardy

Sat. June 23: 10am-noon, Hardy Playground

**Contact:** Mary Beth Porreca, 781-648-6648; [marybporreca8@comcast.net](mailto:marybporreca8@comcast.net).

**Volunteers wanted to organize other summer dates.**

### Peirce

Mon. June 4: 10am-noon, McClennen Park playground

Sun. June 10: 1-3pm, Peirce kindergarten playground

Thurs. June 21: 5-7pm, Reservoir Beach. Bring dinner if you'd like.

Tues. July 17: 10am-noon, Peirce kindergarten playground

Sat. July 28: 1-3pm, Reservoir Beach.

Fri. Aug. 10: 5-7pm, Reservoir Beach. Bring dinner if you'd like.

Sat. Aug. 18, 10am-noon, Peirce kindergarten playground  
Wed. Aug. 29, 10am-noon, Peirce kindergarten playground

Fri. Sept. 7, 5-7pm, Family potluck picnic, location TBA.

**Contact:** Helene Ragovin James, [kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org); 781-648-4863.

### Stratton

Sat., June 16: 10am-noon, Stratton School Playground

Tues., June 19: 5-7pm, Menotomy Rocks Park Playground

Sat., June 30: 3-5pm, Stratton School Playground

Tues., July 10: 5-7pm, Menotomy Rocks Park Playground

Sun., July 22: 10am-noon, Stratton School Playground

Thurs., July 26: 5-7pm, Menotomy Rocks Park Playground

Sun., Aug. 12: 3-5pm, Stratton School Playground

Tues., Aug. 21: 5-7pm, Stratton School Playground

Fri., Sept. 7, 5-7pm, Family Potluck Picnic at Stratton School Playground

**Contact:** Susan Ryan-Vollmar, [susan@susanryanvollmar.com](mailto:susan@susanryanvollmar.com); 617-331-0369 (cell)

### Thompson

Wed. May 30: 12:30-2pm, Thompson Playground. Bring a picnic lunch.

Mon. July 9: 3-5pm, Thompson Playground

Sat. July 28: 10am-noon, Thompson Playground

Thurs, Aug. 2: 3-5pm, Reservoir beach on Lowell St.

Sat. Aug. 25: 10am-noon, Thompson Playground

Fri., Sept. 7: 5-7pm at Thompson playground for a Family Potluck Picnic

**Contact:** Sarah Huber, [parkesarah@verizon.net](mailto:parkesarah@verizon.net); 781-643-7804



### Homeschoolers

Friday, June 29: 5:30pm at Skyline Park/Robbins Farm

Monday, July 9: 4pm, McClennen Park

Sunday, July 22: 4pm, Menotomy Rocks Park, Family Picnic

Tuesday Aug. 7: 3:30pm, Gibbons Park

**Contact:** Kristina Russell, [ktina5@hotmail.com](mailto:ktina5@hotmail.com); 310-806-1358

For general information, contact Helene Ragovin James, [kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

# AFC in Action

## May Highlights

### AFC Drop-in Playgroup



### Puddlestompers



## June AFC Events

### AFC Playtime!

**Mondays, June 4, 11 & 18**

**10-11:30am.** Arl. Enrichment Collab., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl., 1100 Mass. Ave. (across from Jimmy's). Drop-in anytime at AFC's weekly playgroup! Toys, coffee, closing circle time. Ages 0-4 yrs. \$3/family. Sarah 781-316-8181,

[playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Note that Playtime will end on June 18th and resume again in Sept.**



### AFC Drop-in Playgroup

**Tuesday, June 5**

**3:30-5pm.** Fox Library Comm. Rm., Arl. First Tues. of month. Drop-in anytime. Ages 0-4. Free. Sandra 781-859-5050, [playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

### Steering Comm. Meeting

**Thursday, June 7**

**7:30pm.** Open to all members. Arl. Enrichment Collaborative, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl. 1100 Mass. Ave. Amy, 781-646-5417, [info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

### AFC Field Day

**Friday, June 8**

**3:30pm** (rescheduled from May). Summer St. playground and fields (next to the skating rink). Join our friends at Arlington Enrichment Collaborative for some fun outdoor games, an obstacle course and more! Amy 781-646-5417, [outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

### AFC's 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party

**Saturday, June 9**

**10-11:30am.** (rain date June 10, 3:30-5pm) Waldo Playground, (Waldo St., between Broadway and Mass Ave., E. Arl.). Come celebrate with playground fun and cake! **RSVP by June 7.** Jessie 617-460-9200, [events@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:events@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)



### AFC Outing: Habitat Nature Walk

**Tuesday, June 12**

**10:30am.** Habitat, 10 Juniper Rd., Belmont. Come on a special guided spring discovery walk and explore this beautiful natural habitat! Ages 3-5 (siblings in backpacks welcome). \$4/child. Space is limited, **RSVP required by June 7.** Martina 781-316-8433, [outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

### AFC Playground Fun: Parallel Playground

**Wednesday, June 13**

**3:30-5pm.** (Rain date June 20). Parallel Playground, Medford St., Arl. Come meet other AFC families in this ongoing series of monthly playground fun! Martina 781-316-8433, [outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

### Mom's Night Out at Artbeat!

**Thursday, June 21**

**6-8pm.** Artbeat, 212-A, Mass. Ave., E. Arl. ([www.artbeatonline.com](http://www.artbeatonline.com)). Celebrate summer and make a mosaic while relaxing with other moms. \$25 & up depending on the project chosen. RSVP to Elizabeth, 617-718-2872, [escourte@mit.edu](mailto:escourte@mit.edu)

### AFC Outing: Lowell Spinners

**Sunday, June 24**

**5pm.** LeLacheur Park, Lowell. Bring the family to see this Class-A Red Sox affiliate ([www.lowellspinners.com](http://www.lowellspinners.com)). \$6.50/ticket. **RSVP by June 5.** Amy 781-646-5417, [outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)



### AFC Outing: Decordova Sculpture Park

**Monday, June 25**

**10:30am.** 51 Sandy Pond Rd., Lincoln. Come explore and play in the sculpture park. Bring a picnic too! FREE (note: museum is closed on Mondays, but the park is open). Amy 781-646-5417, [outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

### Circus Smirkus; Zoot Suit Caper

**Sunday, July 22**

See page 1 for details. **Deadline for reserving tickets is June 29.** Contact Jessie at 617-460-9200 or [events@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:events@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org) to reserve tickets today!

# Never Too Young for the Great Outdoors

By Amy Speare

My son's first nature walks started when he was 4 weeks old. He may not recall the early days (he would generally sleep), but today he is eager to pull his hiking boots on for what has become a weekly adventure.

While my 21-month-old daughter has always enjoyed the backpack, she recently discovered that walking on her own is even more fun. I often have to take a deep breath and remind myself that I shouldn't rush her when she wants to stop to pick up every rock, feel every tree, pick every leaf. She is learning about the natural world around her and she is fascinated!



*Lilly Speare exploring a hollow tree at Misery Mt, Lincoln*

## 5 tips for nature fun

1. **Relax.** It's about the experience, not the exercise! Let your kids walk at their own pace.
2. **Treasure hunt.** Look for pine cones, unusual rocks, hollow trees, bugs under rocks. The possibilities are endless!
3. **Listen.** Close your eyes — what do you hear? Woodpeckers? Wind? Water?
4. **Take a break.** Bring snacks for energy. Pick a fun snack spot halfway through your walk, but save some for an almost-to-the-car meltdown.
5. **Friend Power.** Playmates provide extra entertainment and incentive to stay out longer.

## Favorite trails to explore

Even though we live in suburban Boston, there are many nearby conservation areas that provide ample outdoor adventures. Here are a few local favorites (distances from Arlington Center):

**Menotomy Rocks** (3 min.; Jason St., Arl.)

Main paths are flat and stroller friendly; hill paths are rugged. Also a duck pond (with fishermen!), grassy areas for picnics, and a shaded playground.

**Arlington's Great Meadows** (10 min.; behind Waldorf School, Mass. Ave. or behind E. Village Nursing Home on Bryant St., Lex.)

Mostly flat terrain (jogger stroller friendly) with two boardwalks (great incentives!).

**Whipple Hill** (10 min.; Winchester Dr., across from Berkshire Dr., Lex.)

Rugged hill and flat terrain (bring a backpack for little ones). Large pond with ducks and geese. Can be muddy after rain. Look for the rope swing!

**Habitat** (10 min.; Juniper Rd., Belmont)

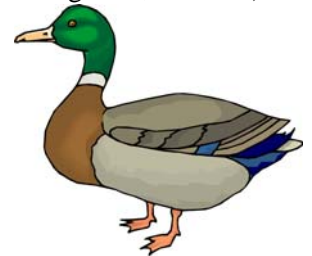
Flat field/woods terrain (jogger stroller or backpack friendly) with turtle pond.

**Middlesex Fells Reservation (Bellevue)** (15 min.; S. Border Rd., Winchester)

Hilly terrain to a large stone tower that provides views of Boston and Rt. 93; some paths jogger stroller friendly. The Fells has tons of other trails as well.

**Horn Pond** (15 min.; Lake Ave. or Sturgis St., Woburn)

At Sturgis St. entrance there is a great trail (flat terrain, stroller friendly) around the smaller pond with ducks, swans, great blue heron, and a bridge. Also a paved path around the lake (and fishermen).



**Mt. Misery** (25 min.; Rt 117 (just W of intersection with Rt 126), Lincoln)

A little further, but worth it. Mostly flat, soft (pine forest, jogger stroller friendly) terrain with few rocks/roots. Also ponds and a hill trail.

Note that all areas are popular with dog walkers, but most dogs are friendly and owners are cognizant of dog-wary children. So pack up your young explorers and enjoy the great outdoors!

## More great nature hike resources:

**The Compleat Day Tripper**, available from AFC for

\$10 email: [info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Middlesex Fells Reservation**, [www.fells.org/](http://www.fells.org/)

**MA State Parks**, [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov)

**Mass Audubon Sanctuaries**, [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org)

*Amy Speare is an AFC volunteer and mother of two. She welcomes your ideas for exploring at [outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)*

# Local Events & Activities – June

For even more resources refer to [www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](http://www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

## Arlington Venues

**Arlington Boys and Girls Club**, 60 Pond Lane, (Pleasant St. to Wellington St.). 781-648-1617. [www.abgclub.org](http://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](http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Recreation/index)

**Fidelity House**, 25 Medford St. 781-648-2005.  
[www.fidelityhouse.org](http://www.fidelityhouse.org)

**Fox branch library**, 175 Mass. Ave. (East Arlington, at Cleveland St.). 781-316-3198.  
<http://www.robbsinlibrary.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](http://www.isismaternity.com)

**Regent Theatre**, 7 Medford St. 781-646-4849.  
[www.regenttheatre.com](http://www.regenttheatre.com)

**Robbins Library**, 700 Mass. Ave. (near Pleasant St./Rt. 60).  
781-316-3234. [www.robbsinlibrary.org](http://www.robbsinlibrary.org)

## Special Events for Families

### Annual Feast of the East Festival

**Sat. June 9**, 1-5p.m. This celebration will take place along Mass. Ave. in Arlington from the Capitol Theater block to JN Phillips Glass Company. Activities will include sampling of local restaurants, merchant sales and giveaways, live band music and crafts. Children's activities will include a moon bounce, train ride, pony rides, big slide, face painting, crafts and more. Free popcorn and cotton candy. Rain date is set for Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. Call 781-643-4600 for information or visit [www.feastoftheeast.com](http://www.feastoftheeast.com).

### “Catch the Beat” Summer Reading Program

at Robbins and Fox libraries June 16-Aug. 31 Even the youngest readers can participate by being read to by parents and caregivers. For more information call 781-316-3234 or 3235 or visit [www.robbsinlibrary.org](http://www.robbsinlibrary.org)

### Sleeping Beauty at the Regent Theatre

Show times are: **Sat. June 16, 23**, **Sun. 24**, and **Sat. 30** The Makeshift Theatre Company presents “Sleeping Beauty” as adapted by Jack Neary. The show is appropriate for all ages. All shows are at 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children. For more information call 781-646-4849 or visit [www.regenttheatre.com](http://www.regenttheatre.com).

### Strawberry Festival

**Sat. June 23**, noon-4p.m. Verrill Farm 11 Wheeler Road, Concord, MA Activities include a folk song sing-a-long for all ages with John Fitzsimmons, and two 30-minute shows with Dan Grady and his Marvelous Marionette Medley at 12:30p.m. and 1:45p.m., Giddy Up Ponies and hayrides. Call 978-369-4494 for information or visit [www.verrillfarm.com](http://www.verrillfarm.com).

### Drumlin Farm

**June 24- Sun. FREE Family Fun Day** 9a.m.-4p.m. 208 S. Great Rd., Lincoln See the exciting changes Drumlin farm has made while enjoying free admission, hayrides,

special programming, prize drawings. Lunch and snacks are available for purchase. Call 781-259-2200 or visit

[www.massaudubon.org/drumlin](http://www.massaudubon.org/drumlin)

### Baby Loves Disco

Last Sunday of each month 2-5p.m., Revolution Rock Bar, 200 High St., Boston \$12 (non-walkers, free) Childproof disco/dance party with ‘real’ music by the legendary DJ Korn. Healthy snacks by Wild Oats/bar available for mom and dad. For tickets, [www.babylovesdisco.com](http://www.babylovesdisco.com). (Note: Sold out through June)

### See the Wiggles in Concert!

Racing to the Rainbow Live Fri. August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3p.m. at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA For more information visit [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

## Sing-along & Music

### Mondays

5p.m. Finagle a Bagel, 91 Middlesex Tpke, Burlington Ed Morgan performs fun original and classic children's songs. Free 781-273-6500, [www.finagleabagel.com](http://www.finagleabagel.com).

### Sing-a-long with Sulinha

Thurs. June 7<sup>th</sup>, 10a.m. Fox Library Infants and preschool age children

### Robbins Library

#### Sing-a-longs for Infants and Toddlers

Tuesdays June 5, 12, and 19 10a.m.-10:30 Must get tickets on the day of the program.

**Sat. June 16** 2p.m. An interactive drumming and Dance performance and demonstration with Jerry and Lisa Marie Leake. All ages welcome. Space is limited. Pick up a ticket on the day of the program beginning at 9a.m.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month

10a.m. Calvary United Methodist Church 300 Mass. Ave. Arl. Sing-along with Diane Taraz \$1 781-648-3719, [www.dianetaraz.com](http://www.dianetaraz.com).

### Saturdays

11a.m. Stellabella Toys, 1360 Cambridge St. Inman Sq., Camb. Sing songs, play games Free 617-491- 6290

### Debbie Cavalier and Friends Concert

June 20<sup>th</sup> Weds. 4p.m. Fox Library Join Debbie and friends as they perform original songs such as “pigs and a Wolf”, “Goldilocks”, or “Jack and the Beanstalk”. All ages welcome.

## Storytimes and Library Programs

### Seaside Secrets

June 9, Sat. 2p.m. Robbins Library Three author /illustrators will share their new books about ocean life followed by question and answer time. For children ages 5-12. Free. Pick up a ticket on the day of the program.

### Pajama Story Times

June 13 and 27, 7pm. Fox Library Drop in

### Barefoot Books

Fri. and Sat. 10:30 a.m. 1771 Mass. Ave., Camb. A fun hour of age- appropriate stories, coloring and refreshments Free For ages 1 and up 617-349-1610, [www.barefootbooks.com](http://www.barefootbooks.com).

### Barnes & Noble

98 Middlesex Tpke., Burlington Pre-scholars—Tues. at 10:30 a.m. Pajamarama—Fri. at 7p.m. Free 781-273-3871

### Concord Museum Story Hour

Fri. June 8 at 1 p.m. Concord Museum, 200 Lexington Rd. For ages **3-5 years**; adult/child program, \$5/pair, members, \$8/pair, nonmembers Story this month, “The Tale of Peter Rabbit”. activity and snack registration required 978-369-9763 [www.concordmuseum.org](http://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](http://www.henrybear.com)

### **Porter Square Books**

Wed., 11 am Porter Sq. Shopping Ctr., Camb.  
Free. 617-491-2220,  
[www.portersquarebooks.com](http://www.portersquarebooks.com)

### **Pottery Barn Kids**

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

### **Starbucks Arlington Center**

Wed., 9:30-10:30 am. 327 Broadway, Arl.  
Free. Check store for details. 781-641-2893.

## **Other Arlington Fun Stuff**

### **Adoptive Family Gym Mixer**

Mon, 9:30-11 am. Together in Motion,  
Together In Motion, 1 Broadway, Arl.  
\$5/child. For families with children 0-6. 781-  
643-1377. [www.togetherinmotion.com](http://www.togetherinmotion.com)

### **Arl. Boys & Girls Club**

Drop-in Outdoor Tot Doodle

**June 5-** July 31 Tues. 10a.m.-10:45 weather  
permitting Parent/child outdoor activity for  
ages 15 months-36 months, including art,  
games, and more. \$3 per child Look at the  
summer brochure for other fun classes. For  
more information visit [www.abgclub.org](http://www.abgclub.org)

### **Arlington Center for the Arts**

41 Foster St., Arl. Preschool, home school, and  
after-school classes for ages 5 & up. Jewelry  
making, drama & improv, drawing, painting,  
songwriting, pottery, cartooning, more. 781-  
648-6220, [www.acarts.org](http://www.acarts.org)

### **Arlington Recreation Dept.**

Offers a number of programs for children:  
skating, indoor gym playtime, cooking classes,  
arts & crafts, gymnastics, sports.  
[www.town.Arlington.ma.us/Public\\_Document/s/ArlingtonMA\\_Recreation/index](http://www.town.Arlington.ma.us/Public_Document/s/ArlingtonMA_Recreation/index)

### **Artbeat Weekend Workshops**

Free instruction, pay for materials  
Saturdays 3p.m.-6p.m.

**2<sup>nd</sup>**- Butterfly and Turtle Mirrors

**16<sup>th</sup>**- Paint a Tie for Dad

**\*17<sup>th</sup>**--Sun. 3p.m.-6pm. Dads paint for free

**30<sup>th</sup>**-Sushi candles 781-646-2200

[www.artbeatonline.com](http://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](http://www.somervilletheatreonline.com)

### **UPDATED! Fidelity House**

Offers many programs for young children,  
including a tot playgroup (drop-in or class)  
Fridays at 10 am. \$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](http://www.fidelityhouse.org)

### **Isis Maternity**

Programs and products for expecting parents,  
babies and toddlers. Infant CPR training. AFC  
membership discount; 1<sup>st</sup> month free.  
[www.isismaternity.com](http://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](http://www.kindermusik.com)

### **NEW! Mom and Me Pilates**

Thursdays, 9-9:45 am, Atelier Pilates, Union  
Square, Somerville. 5-class cards, \$75; 6<sup>th</sup>  
class free. Drop-ins, \$19. RSVPs are required  
as space is limited: Megan Berry, 617-718-  
0237 or [megan@mommanet.com](mailto:megan@mommanet.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](http://www.isismaternity.com)

### **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/](http://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](http://www.abgclub.org)

### **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](mailto:sedorson@yahoo.com).

### **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, Mon-Fri 1:30-5  
pm; Mon, 11 am-12:30 pm; Wed, 9:30 am-  
noon; Sat&Sun, 9-11 am. \$7/ages 1-6; \$5, 6-  
12 mos; under 6 mos, free with playing  
sibling. Also, Friday Pizza & Play, 5-7 pm.  
Martial Arts Sampler for ages 4-6, starts April  
15. 781-643-1377.  
[www.togetherinmotion.com](http://www.togetherinmotion.com)

## **Indoor Playspaces**

### **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](http://www.gymnasticacademy.com)

### **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/](http://www.tumblekidsusa.com/)

### **Kids Playground**

15 Normac Rd, Woburn. Indoor playground  
with play space, tubes & tunnels, mini golf.  
781-935-2300, [www.kidsplayground.com](http://www.kidsplayground.com)

### **Perpetual Motion**

345 Chelmsford St., Lowell. (Off Rt. 3).  
Indoor playground for kids 6 & under. 978-  
452-0777, [www.perpetualmotioninc.com](http://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](http://www.puppetshowplace.org)

### **Babes in the Woods**

Tues. 10am. Middlesex Fells. Strolls & hikes  
through the park. Free. 781-396-8994,  
[www.fells.org](http://www.fells.org)

### **Home Depot Kid's Workshop**

First Sat. of the month. 10am-12pm. Home  
Depot, 10 1<sup>st</sup> 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/](http://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](http://www.caryllibrary.org)

## **Local Attractions**

### **REOPENED! Boston Children's Museum**

300 Congress St., Boston. Open daily. Hands-  
on approach to history, science, etc.; toddler  
PlaySpace. New, expanded space and exhibits,  
including 3-story climbing structure.  
[www.bostonkids.org](http://www.bostonkids.org).

### **Butterfly Place**

120 Tyngsboro Rd., Westford. Open daily,  
(through Columbus Day), 10am-5pm. Large,  
warm atrium with some 500 butterflies  
representing species from all over the world.  
\$9/adult; \$6/child 3-12; under 2 free. 978-392-  
0955. [www.butterflyplace-ma.com](http://www.butterflyplace-ma.com)

### **Codman Community Farm**

58 Codman Rd, Lincoln. Open Tues-Sun, 9  
am-6 pm. \$1/non-members. Non-profit,  
historic working farm that produces hay, meat,  
eggs and other products. See the animals and  
learn about agriculture. Pick-and-pay flower  
garden. 781-259-0456. [www.codmanfarm.org](http://www.codmanfarm.org)

### **Chip-In Farm**

201 Hartwell Rd, Bedford. Open daily, 10 am-  
6 pm. Small family-owned farm with free  
petting zoo. Store with fresh eggs and penny-  
candy counter. 781-275-2545. [www.chip-  
infarm.com](http://www.chip-infarm.com)

### **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](http://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](http://www.concordmuseum.org)

### **OPEN FOR THE SEASON!**

#### **Davis Farmland**

145 Redstone Hill, Sterling. Open daily 9:30am-5pm, weather permitting. Meet barnyard animals and learn how a farm works. \$12.95/ages 2 and up, free under 2. 978-422-6666. [www.davisfarmland.com](http://www.davisfarmland.com)

#### **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](http://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](http://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](http://www.massaudubon.org)

#### **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 every Sun. 9am-noon 617-495-3045, [www.hmn.harvard.edu](http://www.hmn.harvard.edu)

#### **Institute of Contemporary Art**

100 Northern Ave., Boston. Free Family Fun Playdates, last Saturday of every month, 10 am-4 pm. Program and admission free to adults accompanied by child 12 and under. 617-478-3234. [www.icaboston.org](http://www.icaboston.org)

#### **Memorial Drive Sundays**

Memorial Drive, Cambridge closed every Sunday for the season 11am-7pm. Take a stroll, or go biking and rollerblading.. For more information visit : [www.mass.gov/dcr/driveUpdates.hlm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/driveUpdates.hlm).

#### **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](http://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](http://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](http://www.monh.org)

#### **New England Aquarium**

Central Wharf, Boston. Open daily Aqua Kids Family Days for young children on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays; various Preschool Explorer programs. 617-973-5200. [www.neaq.org](http://www.neaq.org)

### **OPEN FOR THE SEASON!**

**Reservoir Beach** (Lowell St., Arl.) opens June 16<sup>th</sup> –Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> Passes can be purchased now at the Recreation Office (422 Summer Street). Resident season tags are \$40/adult, \$25/child or senior, and \$120/family of four (2 adults, 2 children). Out-of-Town resident tags are \$65/each or \$200/family of four (2 adults, 2 children Water Country and AMC Movie Theater passes are also available. The office is open Mon.-Fri. 9a.m.-5p.m. For more information, please call 781-316-3880. or visit [www.arlingtonma.gov](http://www.arlingtonma.gov)

#### **Southwicks Zoo**

2 Southwick St, (off Rt. 16), Mendon. \$16.75/adults; \$12.75/ages 3-12; under age 2, free. WGBH & AAA discounts. Open daily, 10 am-5 pm. Animals & birds, shows, kiddie rides, animal rides (ponies, camels, elephants). 800-258-9182. [www.southwickszoo.com](http://www.southwickszoo.com)

#### **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](http://www.zoonewengland.com)

### **OPEN FOR THE SEASON!**

#### **Swan Boats in the Boston Public Garden**

Hours: (weather permitting only) Daily 10am-4pm. \$2.75/adult, \$1.25/child (2-15) Info: 617-522-1966 or [www.swanboats.com](http://www.swanboats.com)

#### **Take a Walk at Gore Place**

52 Gore St., Waltham. Mon – Fri, 9am to 3pm; Sat & Sun, noon-3 pm. Visit llama, sheep, goats, chickens ,rabbits. Rent an "activity pack" with activities appropriate for children ages 4-9. Backpack rental, \$5. 781-894-2798 [www.goreplace.org](http://www.goreplace.org)

#### **Wilson Farms**

10 Pleasant St., Lex. Open daily, except Tues. Free small petting zoo. Extensive produce market/specialty grocery and gardening supplies. Seasonal events. 781-862-3900. [www.wilsonfarm.com](http://www.wilsonfarm.com).

### **Seminars and Open Houses**

#### **Effective Parenting**

Groups forming now Workshop designed for parents of children 0-3yrs. Explore different parenting topics each week. \$140/person, \$180/couple, For more information contact Melissa Lucius at 781-641-4284 or visit [parenting@rcn.com](http://parenting@rcn.com) or [www.effective-parenting.org](http://www.effective-parenting.org).

### **Benefits**

#### **Kans for Kids**

Sat. June 2, 10a.m.-1p.m. Recreation Office (422 Summer St.) Donate clean, returnable bottles and cans to benefit Arl. Rec. Youth Activities. For more information , please call 781-316-3880.

#### **Arlington Uncorked**

June 9, 6:30-11p.m. Town Hall Auction and wine tasting – A fundraiser for a new Bishop playground

#### **PTO Thrift Shop**

Benefits Arlington Public Schools Weds. 4–8p.m., Thurs. 9:30a.m.- 1p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month 12:30—5p.m. Basement of the Fox Library. Gently -used clothing for all ages, toys, books, housewares, and more. For more information please call 781-483-3433 or visit [www.ptothriftshop.com](http://www.ptothriftshop.com).

### **Groups**

#### **40-something Mom's 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 Wolpaw, 617-1-0758 or visit [yourclearvoice@msn.com](mailto:yourclearvoice@msn.com).

#### **Arlington Area Adoption Moms**

June 7, Thurs. 7:30p.m. location TBA Contact Rachel Silverman, 781-641-2947 or contact [rachelannathorne@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelannathorne@yahoo.com).

#### **Working Mom's Group**

June 20, 7:30p.m. Arlington Enrichment Colabrative (1100 Mass. Ave. , across from Jimmy's)

#### **New Mother's Group**

Tues. 11:30a.m.-1p.m. Sunrise Senior Living (24 Mall Rd. Burl. ) Sponsored by the Parent Connection of BIDMC . Free 8 week sessions. Call 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. Contact Theresa Normile at 617-489-6668 or visit [Tnormile@foodallergyfacts.com](mailto:Tnormile@foodallergyfacts.com).

#### **Breastfeeding Drop-in Group**

Thurs. 3p.m Isis Maternity Free For nursing mom's and babies Staffed by certified lactation consultant [www.isismaternity.com](http://www.isismaternity.com).

#### **Drop-in Playgroups**

Isis Maternity Non-mobile babies – Thurs. 1:45p.m. Mobile babies – Fri.. 3:30 p.m. Free for Isis members, \$5 for non-members [www.isismaternity.com](http://www.isismaternity.com).

#### **Grandparents' Support Group**

Second Tues. of the month, 12-1:30p.m. For grandparents who are primary caretakers of their grandchildren. Free For more information please call 781-316-3410

### La Leche League

Dedicated to providing education, information, and support to breastfeeding women Meetings at Fox Library on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. of each month at 7:30p.m. or 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. of the month at 10a.m. in Cambridge (175 Harvey St.) Free For more information call Heather, 781-648-2988 or visit <http://home.comcast.net/~jrsladkey/lll/index.html>.

### Learn & Play Adoption Group

June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1-3p.m. Community Agencies bldg., Emerson Hospital, 111 Old Rd. to 9-Acre Corner, Concord For parents and adopted children ages 0-5 yrs. Facilitated by First Connections registration requested \$30. For

more information call 978-287-0221 or visit [www.jri.org/cfys/](http://www.jri.org/cfys/)

### We Are Family

3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs. of the month, 7p.m.-9p.m. Community Agencies bldg., Emerson Hospital, 111 Old Rd. to 9-Acre Corner, Concord, Support group for parents of older (3yrs.+ ) internationally adopted children or children previously in DSS custody. For more information call 978-287-0221 or visit [www.jri.org/cfys/](http://www.jri.org/cfys/)

### New Mom's Group

Weds. 11a.m. Beaver Brook Pediatrics, 411 Waverly Oaks Rd., Waltham Free Sessions run for 5 weeks For more information please call 781-891-3706

### New Mother's' Drop-in Group

Fri. 10-11:30a.m. Calvary United Methodist Church, 300 Mass. Ave., Arl. Free, non-sectarian, facilitated group. Sponsored by Jewish Family & Children's Svcs. 617-558-1278

### Older First -Time Moms

3<sup>rd</sup> Weds. of each month, 7p.m. Fox Library Social and support group for first-time moms in their late 30's and 40's. Free Suggested \$1 donation 781-674-2029

### Spanish Playgroup

Group forming for families with children 3-4 years old. Varying levels of Spanish fluency. Contact [debsavage@juno.com](mailto:debsavage@juno.com).

## Kids & Books: How to Read to Your Child

By Ashley Waring

Reading the title of this article, you're probably thinking, "What do you mean, how to read to my child? I already know how to do that. It's easy!"

You're right. It *is* easy, and fun, to share books with your children. It is extremely important, too. Early literacy is one of the most essential skills we can give to our children. Research shows that children start to develop literacy long before formal reading or writing education begins. They learn to recognize letters, sounds, words, sentence structure, story structure, rhyme...the list goes on and on. Early reading experiences help a child learn that a book goes left to right, has a cover with a title and author, and that you turn pages to read a book — crucial knowledge that we take for granted, but that a child learns by interacting with books from a very young age.

Following are some things to keep in mind when reading to your children and a list of recommended titles. If you want any help picking out books for a certain age or on a particular topic, ask your librarian! We love to help find books that kids will enjoy.

### Read-aloud Tips

- You don't have to go from the first page to the last. It is OK to linger on one page, or even to go out of order. Let your child direct the pace and direction of the story.
- Interact through the books. Ask questions, identify objects and colors in the pictures, and so on. As a child gets older you can talk about the characters in the books, their emotions, and actions.
- Modeling reading is just as important as actually reading to your kids. This is especially true for boys, who tend to become reluctant readers later in childhood. Seeing Dad reading sets a great example!



- Don't be discouraged if your child isn't interested in a particular book. Just come back and try it later. Don't force it — your goal is to make reading a positive experience, not a negative one.

### Book Suggestions for Great Read-alouds

#### From birth:

*Black on White* and *White on Black* by Tana Hoban

#### Under 2 years:

*Big Fat Hen* by Keith Baker

*From Head to Toe* by Eric Carle

*Peek-a-Moo!* by Marie Torres Cimarusti

*Time for Bed* by Mem Fox

*I Like it When...* by Mary Murphy

*Baby! Talk!* by Penny Gentieu

#### 2-3 years:

*My Car* by Byron Barton

*Mouse Mess* by Linnea Asplind Riley

*It Looked Like Spilt Milk* by Charles G. Shaw

*Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina

*Hug* by Jez Alborough

*No, David!* by David Shannon

*A Hat for Minerva Louise* by Janet Morgan Stoeke

*Owl Babies* by Martin Waddell

*Napping House* by Audrey Wood

*How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?* by Jane Yolen

#### 4-6 years:

*Harry the Dirty Dog* by Gene Zion

*Jamaica's Find* by Juanita Havil

*Hooway for Wodney Wat* by Helen Lester

*Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey

*Hard Hat Area* by Susan L. Roth

*Pete's a Pizza* by William Steig

*Special Delivery* by Brigitte Weninger

*Bear Snores On* by Karma Wilson

Ashley Waring is an AFC volunteer and the mother of an almost-2-year-old. She is a children's librarian at the Reading Public Library in Reading, Mass.

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

**June, 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