



Arlington Family Connection

supporting children six and under and those who care for them

Volume VII, Issue 4 • July, 2008

www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Looking for Childcare or Preschool?

AFC Guides Parents to Options

Are you thinking of childcare or preschool for your little one this fall? Let AFC be your guide. Whether you are looking for full-time or part-time hours, a family daycare setting, or a preschool, year-round or school-year program, AFC can help you make sense of all that Arlington has to offer.

Childcare & Preschool Options Book Now Available

AFC publishes the booklet *Childcare and Preschool Options in Arlington* which includes information on each licensed program in town. The book is available at Isis Maternity, Together in Motion, and via mail from AFC. For each provider, get particulars on program philosophy, special activities, age range, current tuition rates, and contact information.

Open House Event in October

Mark your calendars for AFC's seventh annual open house night on Thursday, October 2, 2008. This special event allows parents and caregivers the opportunity to meet with representatives of the preschool and daycare facilities to learn more. Bring the kids and your questions and join us in October!



Hundreds of attendees packed Stratton at the 2007 open house.

Volunteers Needed

Want to get the inside scoop? We need several volunteers to help produce the 2008 booklet and coordinate the open house event. Contact Kristen Strechay at options@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org.

Saturday, July 26, 5:30-7:30pm Parallel Playground, Medford Street **AFC's Annual Pizza Party!**

Come meet other AFC members and chow down on some free pizza at our 6th annual "Pizza at the Playground" event, Saturday, July 26th from 5:30-7:30pm (rain date July 27th). The party will be held at Parallel Playground, at the corner of Medford Street and Mystic Valley Parkway, near the Medford rotary.

AFC will bring pizza and lemonade, plus juice, freeze pops, and watermelon...you bring picnic blankets and the kids! AFC members may also bring family and friends, and anyone interested in exploring what AFC has to offer. This is a good opportunity to join AFC or to renew memberships.



This year's pizza party will also feature a special thank you treat to recognize all the members who have volunteered their time in the last year.

Contact Jessie Keating to RSVP or to volunteer to help at newsletter@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org or 617-460-9200.

Sunday, July 20, 11am Elm Bank Horticultural Center 900 Washington Street, Wellesley **AFC Outing: Circus Smirkus**

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) Bring your friends and family. General admission tickets are \$18 each. Free under 2.

Tickets are reserved on a first-come first-served basis. Contact Catherine at treasurer@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org or 781-643-0530.

Kindergarten Connections: July Events

AFC's Kindergarten Connections volunteers have scheduled lots of playdates for incoming kindergartners and their families to meet one another this summer! The following events are for children who will enter kindergarten in September. Additional events will be announced in upcoming newsletters and e-bulletins.



Bishop

Fri. July 11, 11am-1pm. Bishop School playground. Bring sunscreen, a bag lunch, and a blanket.
Sat. July 19, 9-11am. Bishop School playground. Rain date: Sun. July 20, 4-5pm.
Contact: Mary Ellen Aronow (maronow@hnr.org, 781-316-0218), Annette Donnelly (amdonnelly@verizon.net)

Brackett

Sun. July 13, 3-5pm. Brackett School playground.
Contact: Dana Ansel (dana.ansel@gmail.com, 781-643-0159)

Dallin

Sun. July 13, 3-5pm. Dallin School playground and fields.
Thu. July 24, 4-6pm. Dallin School kindergarten playground.
Contact: Jenny Brown (jbrown68@yahoo.com), Deanna Cook (dee16cook@comcast.net), Janet Wilder (janetwilder@earthlink.net)

Hardy

Tue. July 29, 10am-12pm. Hardy School playground.
Contact: Jennifer and Dave Erbe (jenerbe@comcast.net)

Peirce

Sat. July 12, 9-11am. Peirce School lower playground. Rain date: Sun. July 13.
Wed. July 30, 4-6pm. Arlington Reservoir. Look for our sign! Rain date: Thu. July 31.
Contact: Susan Goetcheus (kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org, 781-643-0215), June Rutkowski (june.rutkowski@verizon.net)

Stratton

Sat. July 26, 10am-12pm. Arlington Reservoir. Rain date: Sun. July 27.
Contact: Ann Pirone (781-646-2715, a_pirone@hotmail.com), Saskia Oosting (781.648.4504, soosting@yahoo.com)

Thompson

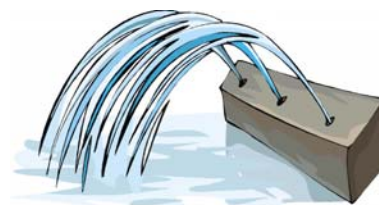
Fri. July 18, 3pm. Spray park at Thompson School.

Contact: Alison Miller (alison.r.miller@comcast.net), Kathy O'Rourke (shawnandkathy@verizon.net)

For general information, contact Susan Goetcheus, kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Thursday, July 10, 3:30-5pm AFC Outing: Thompson Spray Park

(Rain date: July 11). Thompson Spray Park, Everett St., E. Arl. Come stay cool at this local spray park. Eileen, 617-620-1772, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org



AFC Directory

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

AFC Playtime - Glendalys Ghandi
playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Book Group - Wendy Paramore
bookgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Community Service - Lauren Boyle
community@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

e-Bulletin - Marion Goodwin
bulletinboard@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Kindergarten Connections - Susan Goetcheus
kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Membership - Leah Nelson and Kelly Chiu
membership@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

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Outings - Eileen Coleman and Amy Speare
outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Treasurers - Catherine Hoffman and Mimi Wan
treasurer@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Web Site - Seth Maislin
webmaster@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Working Moms - Su Joun and Mimi Wan
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

AFC in Action

June Highlights

AFC Craft Time



Whipple Hill Nature Walk



July AFC Events

Please note that AFC Playtime is on vacation for the summer. Playtime will return in September at a new location.

The Working Moms Group is also on vacation for the summer.

Please look for updates in the newsletter and in the AFC e-bulletin.

AFC Drop-in Playgroup Tuesday, July 1

3:30-5pm. Fox Library Comm. Rm., Arl. First Tues. of month. Drop-in anytime. Perfect for non-mobile babies! A great place for caregivers to get to know each other without having to chase their kids around. Ages 0-4. Free. Sandra 781-859-5050, playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Steering Committee Mtg. Tuesday, July 1

7:30pm. Open to all members. Arl. Enrichment Collaborative, 2nd Fl. 1100 Mass. Ave. Amy, 781-646-5417, info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Outing: Thursday, July 10 Thompson Spray Park

3:30-5pm (rain date July 11). Thompson Spray Park, Everett St., E. Arl. Come stay cool at this local spray park. Eileen, 617-620-1772, outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Outing: Circus Smirkus Sunday, July 20

11am. Elm Bank Horticultural Center, 900 Washington St. (Rt. 16), Wellesley. 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! (<http://www.circussmirkus.org>) Bring your friends and family. General admission tickets are \$18 each. Free under 2.

Tickets are reserved on a first-come first-served basis. Contact Catherine at 781-643-0530, treasurer@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org.

AFC's 7th Annual Pizza Party Saturday, July 26

5:30-7:30pm. (rain date July 27). Parallel Playground (corner of Medford St. and Mystic Valley Pkwy.). AFC will provide FREE pizza and more for members, families and friends and anyone interested in learning more about AFC.

This is also a good opportunity to renew memberships - all memberships renew Sept. 1st for \$20 a year. RSVP with number who plan to attend to Jessie at 617-460-9200, events@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

AFC Book Group Monday, July 28

7:30pm. Starbucks (327 Broadway, Arl Ctr.). This month's book is *The Teahouse Fire* by Elis Avery. Come even if you don't have the chance to read the book. Wendy, 781-777-2706, bookgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Lowell Spinners Game



“Little Fox” Resale Shop Opens!

The Little Fox Resale Shop had its opening day on June 11. The shop includes a great selection of toys and books, and large equipment such as strollers, exersaucers, bouncy seats, and even a Kettler tricycle. The shop has a great selection of clothing priced between \$2.50 and \$5. In addition, the shop sells maternity clothes, kids shoes, games, and sports equipment.



The shop is open from 2-8pm on Wednesdays and is located on the upper level inside the Fox Branch Library in East Arlington.



Donations are accepted on Wednesdays or by appointment. If you would like to make an appointment, please e-mail Susan Dorson at

sedorson@yahoo.com or Amy Weitzman at amy@kshanti.com.

Donation Guidelines

- Please think carefully about what you donate. The shop is volunteer-run and sorting items takes time.
- The shop will not be able to sell clothing that is ripped, stained, or missing buttons.
- Toys & games must work and have all their pieces.
- Infant supplies and gear must meet current safety requirements.
- Please, no adult clothing or housewares.

Volunteer!

Volunteers are a crucial part of the shop. “We would like to be able to expand our hours to include Thursdays from 9am-5pm,” said Amy Weitzman. She asked that anyone able to work for an hour or more on Thursdays contact her.



Kid-Friendly Restaurant Review

by: Jessie Keating

Mifune (303 Broadway, Arlington; (781) 641-2388.)
Price Range: \$\$. Attire: Casual

We went on a Sunday at 11:30--which was apparently a good time to go--because we beat the lunch rush. The waitstaff was very friendly, and sat us quickly. They didn't blink an eye at my son, which was good, because he's hit the stage where he's a pain to take in public--one minute he's an angel, and the next he's running around tearing wallpaper off the walls. You know, a typical 18 month-old. They brought a highchair without even asking, and sat us at a table in the center of the room. So often we parents of younger children are relegated to the dark depths of restaurants where our kids can scream and throw their food on the floor without disturbing the other patrons, but not at Mifune. (We have actually been there before, and the waitstaff carried my son around for a full 20 minutes while my husband and I enjoyed our meal. It was nice. Blissful even.) They don't have any toys, but what parent doesn't have a few stashed in their bag for mealtime emergencies?

What we ate:

Husband (Jes): General Gau's Chicken, which came with an Egg Roll, Roasted Pork Fried Rice, and Hot and Sour Soup. \$6.75

Wife (Jessie): Chicken Lo Mein, which came with a Spring Roll, Roasted Pork Fried Rice, and Egg Drop Soup, as well as an order of Sweet Potato Tempura Sushi Rolls. Hot tea. \$5.95 and \$4.95

Picky 18 month-old (Eamon): Bits of noodles and rice, and maybe a bite of sweet potato. I'm not sure.

The food was, as always, very good. My only complaint about this restaurant is their lack of understanding of my shellfish allergy. Every time I've gone, I've ended up needing to check my food before I eat it, so I try to steer clear of anything fishy sounding, and ask that they prepare my food on a new skillet. Other than that, the food is delicious.

Overall, Mifune is very kid-friendly. The waitstaff was helpful in getting us settled in and making sure we had everything we needed for our family, and didn't make us feel like we needed to eat in a separate country, far away from other customers. Thumbs up to Mifune.

Local Events & Activities – July

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.
www.town.arlington.ma.us/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_Recr_eation/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.
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

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.robbsinlibrary.org

Together in Motion, 1 Broadway, at Route 16. 781-643-1377.
www.togetherinmotion.com

Special Events for Families

Boston Harborfest 2008

Jul. 1-6 in Boston, Children's day on July 2. Enjoy a 6-day long fourth of July Festival that showcases the colonial and maritime heritage of the cradle of the American Revolution: the historic City of Boston. Children's day includes music, games, performers and more all at city hall plaza. Info:
www.bostonharborfest.com.

Concert at Gore Place

Wed. Jul. 2, 7pm. 52 Gore Street, Waltham. Free concert of popular American music by The Waltham American Legion Band on the grounds of the Gore estate. Doors open at 6:30pm. Provide your own seating, free parking. Info: (781) 894-2798 or
www.goreplace.org.

Youth Games

Fri. Jul. 4, 11am at Crumb Memorial Football Field, Lex. Games include historical and original costumes, bubble gum blowing contest and watermelon eating for all ages. More games for older kids. Info:
www.lexingtonlions.org.

July 4th @ Robbins Farm Park

Fri. Jul. 4, 7pm. John Penny Band, refreshments and large screen simulcast of the Boston Pops concert and fireworks display, John Penny Band. Free. Easter Ave (across from Brackett School). Info:
www.robbsinfarmpark.org.

Birds of Prey Show at Gore Place

Sat. Jul. 5. 52 Gore Street, Waltham. Shows at 11am, 12pm, 1pm. See live hawks, falcons owls and a bald eagle "up-close and personal" when raptor demonstrator Tom Ricardi brings his Birds of Prey show to the estate. \$4/person, free parking. Info: (781) 894-2798 or
www.goreplace.org.

Meet Tigger @ Cary Library

Tues. Jul. 15. 1874 Mass Ave, Lex. 10:30am, free. Ages 3-6. Tickets available Mon. July 7 at 7pm in person, or 7:30pm by phone, 781-862-6288. Listen to stories and visit with Tigger. Parents and children may have photos taken with Tigger following storytime. Info:
www.caryllibrary.org.

6th Annual Truck Day

Fri. Jul. 18, 10am-12pm, parking lot behind Cary Library, Lex.. Get a close up look at your favorite vehicles from Lexington's Dept. of Public Works, Police Dept., Fire Dept., and LEXPRESS. Info: 781-862-6288 or
www.caryllibrary.org.

Life is Good Festival

Sat. Jul. 19, 11am-6pm, Boston Common. Live music (including Steve Songs), classic backyard food, and a colorful mix-of good time games and activities for adults and children alike. A fundraiser for children in need. Info: www.lifeisgood.com.

Blueberry Pancake Breakfast

Sat. Jul. 19, 9am-12pm, Verrill Farm, 11 Wheeler Rd. Concord. Enjoy breakfast and a pie eating contest. Live Dixieland music by The Yankee Stompers and hayrides. \$6.50/person. Info: 978-369-4494 or
www.verrillfarm.com

Animal World Experience

Wed. Jul. 30, 11am and 1pm at Cary Library, Lex. Ages 5-8 and their families. Come and meet 7 or 8 wild animals for a hands-on and close-up experience. Free, tickets available July 21 at 7pm in person, or at 7:30pm by phone, 781-862-6288. Info:
www.caryllibrary.org.

Once Upon a Time with Kidstock

Thurs. Jul. 31, 11am: **The Emperor's New Kangaroo**
Cary Library, 1874 Mass Ave, Lex. Ages 3-8. Free, tickets available July 28 at 7pm in person, or at 7:30pm by phone, 781-862-6288. Info: www.caryllibrary.org.

Big Bugs exhibit at the NE Wild Flower Society

Jul. 12-Oct. 31, 180 Hemenway Rd, Framingham. 13 enormous BUG sculptures are exhibited along with BugMobile activity stations. Open daily 9am-7pm. Info: 508-877-7630 or www.newfs.org.

Summer scavenger Hunt at Robbins and Fox Libraries

June 23rd until August 29th. Hunt and snoop around the libraries all summer long. Grab a hunt form from the Children's Desk (Robbins) or the Main Desk (Fox) and dig for treasure in books. All ages. Drop in any time.

Lincoln Tour de Farms

Sun. Aug. 17, 10am-4pm. Pre-register for a tour of Lincoln's farms by bus. \$8/adults, \$5/kids, under 3 free. Info and registration at: 781-259-2206.

BosTix Junior

Bring your child to the theater to see family friendly plays and musical productions. Info:
www.BosTix.org

Sing-alongs & Music

Monday

4:45pm. **Finagle a Bagel**, 91 Middlesex Tpke, Burl. Ed Morgan performs fun original and classic children's songs. Free 781-273-6500,
www.finagleabagel.com

11am **Stellabella Toys** (except holidays). 1967 Mass. Ave., Camb., Porter Sq. Free Sing along. Info: 617-864-6290.

Thursday

11am **Stellabella Toys** (except holidays). 1967 Mass. Ave., Camb., Porter Sq. Free Sing along. Info: 617-864-6290.

Saturday

11am. **Stellabella Toys**, 1360 Cambridge St. Inman Sq. Camb. Sing songs, play games Free. Info: 617-491- 6290.

Sunday

Baby Loves Disco

Last Sunday of each month, 2-5pm, Revolution Rock Bar, 200 High St. Boston, \$12 (non-walkers, free) Childproof disco/dance party with "real" music by the legendary DJ Kon, healthy snacks by Wild Oats, bar available for mom and dad. Info:
www.babylovesdisco.com

Story times and Library Programs

ROBBINS LIBRARY:

Family Picnic Concert Series

Bring a blanket and picnic and enjoy music on Robbins House Lawn behind Library.

Tues. Jul. 8, 10am, **Sulinha** (indoors if raining)

Thurs. Jul. 17, 6-7pm, **Margot Fox** (rain date July 31, 6:00pm)

Backyard Garden and Park Safari

Tues. Jul. 8, 3pm. Ages 3 and up. Drop in.

Spanish Story Time

Thurs. Jul. 10, 6pm Community Room. All ages. Drop in.

Kidstock Presents: It's a Congo Line

Fri. Jul. 18, 2:30pm, Community Room. Experience the joy of live theater! Ages 3 and up. Tickets will be available one hour before the program.

Kids Craft Fair

In cooperation with the Arlington Recreation Department
Wed. Jul. 23, 10-11:30am. On Robbins House Lawn behind library (in Community Room if rain). A chance for children of all ages to make things to sell or for kids to buy good stuff

Story Times for Toddlers

Mon. 10:30am. Ages 18 to 30 months. Stories and a simple craft. Drop in.

Story Times for age 2 ½ up

Mon., 11am. Stories followed by a craft. Drop in.

Story Times for ages 3-5

Wed., 10:30am (no story July 2). Longer stories followed by a craft. Drop in.

FOX LIBRARY:

Family Movie Nights - Movies for all ages

Wed. Jul. 9 and 23, 6:30pm

Family Game Nights

Wed. Jul. 16 and 30, 6:30pm. Drop in to play board games

Moccasin Stew - Maggie Puppets

A Native American tale
Thurs. Jul. 24, at 3pm. Ages 3-10. Tickets available one hour before show.

Spanish Stories and songs

Thurs. Jul. 3 and 10, 4pm. For all ages.

Tuesday

Barnes & Noble for preschoolers

10:30am, 98 Middlesex Tpke., Burlington. Free. Info: 781-273-3871.

Harvard Coop for ages 2-4

11am, 1400Mass. Ave. Camb. Free, Info: 617-499-2000.

Pottery Barn Kids

10am, Burlington Mall. Free. Info: 781-221-5833

Wednesday

Porter Square Books

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

Thursday

Mornings at the Museum

Thurs. June 12, 10:30am-12pm, National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Rd. Lex. Enjoy a story and a related craft. \$3/child (members) \$5/child (nonmembers) Info: 781-861-6559 or www.monh.org

Henry Bear's Park for ages 3-6

11am, 685 Mass. Ave. Arl. Free. Info: 781-646-9400 or www.henrybear.com
11am (call to confirm) 361 Huron Ave, Camb. Free. Info: 617-547-8424 or www.henrybear.com.

Friday

Barefoot Books for ages 1yr +

10:30am, 1771 Mass. Ave. Camb. A fun hour of age- appropriate stories, coloring and refreshments, Free. Info: 617-349-1610 or www.barefootbooks.com.

Barnes & Noble for preschoolers

6:30pm, 98 Middlesex Tpke. Burlington,

Saturday

Barefoot Books for ages 1yr +

10:30am. 1771 Mass. Ave. Camb. A fun hour of age- appropriate stories, coloring and refreshments, Free. Info: 617-349-1610, www.barefootbooks.com.

Barnes & Noble for preschoolers

11am, 98 Middlesex Tpke., Burlington. Free. Info: 781-273-3871.

Harvard Coop for ages 2-4

11am, 1400 Mass. Ave. Camb. Preschool story hour with snack and craft, Free, 617-499-2000 or <http://harvardbkstore.com>.

Other Arlington Fun Stuff

Batting Cages Open

Rent a cage for \$45/hour at the Arl. Sports Center/Veteran's Memorial Rink, 422 Summer St. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9-9pm, and by appt. on weekends. Call 781-316-3880 or David Cunningham for appt. at 781-316-3882 www.arlingtonma.gov

Drop in Tot Doodle

June 12-July 29 at the Arlington Boys and Girls Club. Outdoor parent/child activities for children 15-36 months, including art, games, water play more. Tues 10-10.45am, no class July 1, \$3 per child. Info: www.abgclub.org

Arlington Center for the Arts

Offers many fun, spring classes for children Info: 781-648-6220 or www.acarts.org.

Arlington Recreation Dept.

Offers many fun, spring classes for children. Info: 781-316-3880 or www.arlingtonma.gov.

Artbeat Weekend Workshops

Saturdays, 3-6pm, 212A Mass. Ave, Arl. Free instruction, pay for materials, Ages 4yrs+
July 12, **Rock Art**
July 19, **Crazy Quilt Bowls and Boxes**
July 26, **Kokeshi Dolls**
Info: 781-646-2200, www.artbeatonline.com.

Capitol Theater Movies for Caregivers with Babies

Mondays. 204 Mass. Ave. Arl. Begin between 1-2pm. New movies chosen weekly. \$5/adult Nursing, bottle feeding, fussing, changing diapers are never frowned upon. Info: 781-648-6022, www.somervilletheatreonline.com.

Fidelity House

25 Medford St. Arl. Info: 781-648-2005 or www.FidelityHouse.org.

Isis Maternity

Programs & products for expecting & new parents. *AFC member discount-1st month free*,

Drop-in Playgroups:

Non-mobile babies Thurs. 1:45pm,

Mobile babies Fri. 3:30 pm,

Free for members, \$5 for non-members. Info: www.isismaternity.com.

Music Together

Explore what music sounds like, looks like, and feels like. Call 781-648-4084 or visit www.musictogetherofarlington.com

Puddlestompers Playgroup

This drop-in playgroup is for toddlers, preschoolers, siblings and their caregivers. Come make friends and have fun! Meeting days, times, & locations are emailed to participants. To be added to the group email list contact Susan at 781-641-3792 or sedorson@yahoo.com

Reservoir Beach

Lowell St, Arl. 10am-8pm daily. Purchase summer tags or daily passes on site. Info: 781-316-3880 or visit www.arlingtonma.gov

Spray Pool

Lussiano park, Arl. next to the Thompson School on North Union Street. 10am-7pm daily, free. Info: 781-316-3880 or visit www.arlingtonma.gov

Together in Motion

Drop-in play space entirely padded with soft play blocks, modules, balls etc. Mon-Fri 2:30-5pm for ages 0-6. Tues 10am-12:30pm for ages 0-24 months only. \$7/ages 1-6; \$5, 6-12 mos; under 6 mos, free with paying sibling. Discounted multi-visit passes available. Group rates offered for 8 or more children. Various classes offered as well, see website for more info. Info: 781-643-1377 or www.togetherinmotion.com

Indoor Playspaces

Bedford Family Connection Playroom

Mon.-Fri. 9:30-11:30am, First Parish Church 75 The Great Rd. Bedford (use Elm St. entrance). Members 50 cents/child, non-members \$2/child. Info: contact Niki Curry at currynm@comcast.net or www.kidsplaybedford.com.

Gymnastics Academy of Boston

Open gym Mon.-Fri. 11:30am-1pm. Drop-in and explore. \$5/members, \$10/non-members 128 Smith Place, Camb. Info: 617-441-9700 or www.gymnasticacademyofboston.com.

Kids Playground

15 Normac Rd., Woburn Indoor playground with playspace, tubes and tunnels, mini golf. Info: 781-935-2300, www.kidsplayground.com.

Perpetual Motion

345 Chelmsford St., Lowell (off Rt. 3) Indoor playground for kids 0-6yrs. **New separate play area for 5yrs+** Info: 978-452-0777 www.perpetualmotioninc.com.

MyGym

1065 Comm. Ave. (behind Shaw's) Boston, New indoor playspace for babies and toddlers. Open gym: Mondays 2-4pm and Fridays 4:30-5:30pm at 2:15pm, Info: 617-789-3669 or www.mygymboston.com.

Beyond Arlington

Puppet Showplace Theatre

Shows on Sun. 1pm, Weds. & Thurs. at 10:30am and 1pm. 32 Station St., Brookline. Ages 3 and up. Age appropriateness varies per show. \$7.50/members, \$9.50/non-members. Reservations recommended. Info: 617-731-6400, www.puppetshowplace.org.

Home Depot Kid's Workshop

1st Sat. of the month, 10am-noon, 10 1st Ave., Waltham. Drop-in build-it-yourself project, Ages 2+ with an adult. Call 781-672-0900

Play Academy

25 Riverside Ave. Medford. Offers classes for infants-age 5yrs; Drop-off program. Info: 781-738-PLAY, www.play-academy.com.

Pre-school Movies

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

Local Attractions

Boston Children's Museum

300 Congress St., Boston. Open daily, 10am-5pm, Fri until 9pm. Hands-on approach to history, science, etc.; toddler PlaySpace. New, expanded space and exhibits, including 3-story climbing structure. Info: www.bostonkids.org.

Butterfly Place

120 Tyngsboro Rd., Westford. Open daily 10am-5pm. Large, warm atrium with some 500 butterflies representing species from all over the world. \$9.50/adult, \$6.50/child 3-12, under 2 free. Info: 978-392-0955, www.butterflyplace-ma.com

Children's Discovery Museum

177 Main St., Acton. Open daily, 9am-4:30pm. Victorian house with transformed into 10 hands-on exhibit areas. Ages 6 & under. Check website for special programs. \$8, free under 1. Info: 978-264-4200 or www.discoverymuseums.org.

Chip-In Farm

201 Hartwell Rd, Bedford. Open daily 10am-6pm. Small family-owned farm with free petting zoo. Store with fresh eggs and produce. Info: 781-275-2545 or www.chip-infarm.org.

Codman Community Farm

58 Codman Rd, Lincoln. Open Tues-Sun 9am-6pm. \$1.50/person. Non-profit, histori working farm that produces hay, meat, eggs and other products. Get close to the animals and learn about agriculture. Also offers children gardening class. Info: 781-259-0456 or www.codmanfarm.org.

Concord Museum

200 Lexington Rd, Concord. Open daily, Mon-Sat 9-5pm Sun 12-5pm, Historical, literary, artistic treasures of the area. Monthly storytime and children's programs, \$8/adults, children under 6 free., Info: 978- 369-9763 or www.concordmuseum.org.

Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary

208 S. Great Rd., Lincoln. Explore the fields, forest and farmyard. Weekly programs for kids. 9am-5pm, closed non-holiday Mondays. \$6/non-member adults, \$4/non-member ages

3-18. Info: 781-259-2200 or www.massaudubon.org.

Ecotarium

222 Harrington Way, Worcester. Open Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12-5pm. Monthly family preschool programs. Members free, \$8/Non-member adult, \$6/Non-member ages 3-18. Explorer Express Train ride, \$2.50/person. Info: 508-929-2700 or 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. Info: 617-489-5050 or www.massaudubon.org.

Harvard Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St, Cambridge. Open daily 9am-5pm. Wide array of stuffed animals in the mammal exhibit. 40ft dinosaur replica. \$7.50/adult, \$5/ages 3-18. Free every Sun. 9am-noon. Info: 617-495-3045 or www.hmn.harvard.edu.

Institute of Contemporary Art

100 Northern Ave., Boston. Open Tues-Sun 10am-5pm, Thurs & Fri until 9pm. Free Family Fun Playdates, last Saturday of every month, 10 am-4 pm. to adults accompanied by child 12 and under. \$12 general admission. Info: 617-478-3234 or 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, 11am-4pm.. Info: 617-267-9300 or www.mfa.org.

Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston. Open daily 9am-7pm, Fri until 9pm. Hands-on Discovery Zone, with children's gallery for those 5 and under. Info: 617-723-2500 or www.mos.org.

National Heritage Museum

33 Marrett Rd., Rt. 2A, Lexington. Open daily 10am-5pm, Sun 12-5pm. Great monthly programs including storytimes with crafts. Free admission. Info: 781-861-6559 or www.monh.org.

New England Aquarium

Central Wharf, Boston. Open daily 9am-6pm, Fri-Sun until 7pm. \$17.95/adult, \$9.95/children ages 3-11, free for children under 3. Info: 617-973-5200 or www.neaq.org.

Southwicks Zoo

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

Stone Zoo

149 Pond St. Stoneham. Open weekdays 10am-5pm & weekends 10am-6pm, Small zoo, with a petting barnyard, playground and many animal exhibits. \$8/Adult, \$5/Ages 2-12, under 2yrs. free, Info: 781-438-5100 or www.zoonewengland.com.

Take a Walk at Gore Place

52 Gore St., Waltham, Mon-Fri, 9am- 3pm; Sat & Sun. 12-3pm. Visit llama, sheep, goats, chickens, rabbits. Rent an "activity pack" with activities appropriate for children ages 4-9.

Backpack rental, \$5. Info: 781-894-2798 or www.goreplace.org.

Swan Boat Rides

Boston Public Garden, Open Weekdays 10-4pm until June 20, June 21- Labor Day 10-5pm, after Labor Day 12-4pm, Weekend Hours 10-4pm, \$2.75/adults, ages2-15yrs/\$1.50, seniors \$2. Info: 617-522-1966.

Verrill Farm

11 Wheeler Rd. Concord, 9am- 7pm daily, Info: 978-369-4494 or www.verrillfarm.com.

Groups

40-something Mom's Group

Suzan Wolpov, a licensed therapist with a specialty in women's issues and an older mom herself, has started a new group. This monthly discussion & support group for moms of babies &/or young children meets on Mondays from 9:30-11am in North Cambridge \$25/meeting. Info: 617-441-0758 or www.yourclearvoice@msn.com

Arlington Area Adoption Moms

Contact Rachel Silverman for date and location info. 781-641-2947 or rachelannathome@yahoo.com

Belmont Food Allergy & Asthma Support Group

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

Breastfeeding Drop-in Group

Thurs. 3pm, Isis Maternity, For nursing moms and babies, Free, Staffed by certified lactation consultants, Info: www.isismaternity.com.

Grandparents' Support Group

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

International Adoptions

Free 8 week support and education group for parents accompanied by their children. Meets Tues 10-11:30am at 1430 Main St, Waltham. Info: 781-693-5677 or eberne@jfcscoston.org.

La Leche League

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

Learn & Play Adoption Group

For parents and adopted children ages 0-5yrs. Facilitated by First Connections. Community Agencies bldg., Emerson Hospital, 111 Old Rd. to 9-Acre Corner, Concord. Registration required \$30. Info: 978-287-0221 or www.jri.org/cfys/.

New Babies/New Mom's Group

First time mothers bring infants up to 6 months old to meet with other mothers and a leader for support and discussion. Session begins Sept 18. Info: www.warmlines.org.

New Mothers' Drop-in Group

For mothers with children under 1yr. Fri. 10-11:30am. Calvary United Methodist Church, 300 Mass. Ave. Arl. Free, non-sectarian, facilitated group. Sponsored by Jewish Family & Children's Svcs. Info: 617-558-1278.

New Mother's Group

Tues. 11:30am-1pm, Temple Isaiah, 55 Lincoln St, Lexington, Sponsored by the Parent Connection of BIDMC. Free 8 week sessions, Registration required. Info: 617-667-2229.

Older First -Time Moms

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

Postpartum Adjustment Support Group

Fridays 1-2:30 in West Newton, Drop-in, Contact Haven Fyfe-Kiernan, MSW, LICSW to register (617-739-1022) or to discuss private therapy specializing in postpartum adjustment and parenting issues. Sponsored by Jewish Family & Children's Svcs.

Spanish Playgroup

Formed by an Arlington-based group of parents, the age range is 1-8 yrs old. Spanish skill ranges from beginner to bilingual. Most of the families have one parent who speaks some Spanish. For info contact Deb Savage at debsavage@juno.com.

We Are Family

3rd Thurs. of the month, 7-9pm 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. Info: 978-287-0221 or www.jri.org/cfys/.

Working Moms Group,

3rd Weds. of the month, 7:30 pm, Arlington Enrichment Collaborative, 1100 Mass. Ave - 2nd floor, (across from Jimmy's Steerhouse). Get together with other working moms! This is for ALL working mothers - both new and experienced! Please RSVP to workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org

Join Arlington Family Connection!

Arlington Family Connection is an organization whose mission is to support and enrich the lives of families in Arlington with children age 6 and under. With over 400 member families, AFC is an active, all-volunteer group that provides many benefits to families with young children including frequent outings, family parties, community service opportunities, and frequent updates via weekly emails and monthly newsletters about happenings in and around Arlington.

Membership is \$20 per year. All memberships renew in August. If you join at another time during the year, the membership fee is prorated. Please visit www.arlingtonfamilyconnection.org/membership to print out a membership form. For more information, email Leah Nelson at membership@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org or call 781-316-2848.

Arlington Family Connection**P.O. Box 150****Arlington, MA 02476****July, 2008**