



# Arlington Family Connection

supporting children six and under and those who care for them

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

## AFC Partners with Arlington Recreation Department to Offer Members Special Discounts

### Discounted Reservoir Beach Day Passes

The Arlington Family Connection is offering an exciting new benefit to our members this summer!

To help more of our members experience Arlington's own Reservoir Beach, we will be selling discounted day passes to the Res. The passes, a \$5 value (\$7 on weekends), are available to AFC members for just \$2.50. Each admits one person with no additional payment. (Children one year and under are always free.)

If you haven't been to the Res, this is a great way to try it out at a special price. Located on Lowell Street in Arlington Heights, the Res includes a filtered and chlorinated swimming area, a large sandy beach, shady areas, and a playground. There are also vending machines and a bathhouse. The beach is staffed by certified lifeguards. The Res opens this year on Monday, June 22.



Even if you're a regular visitor to the Res and plan on buying a season pass, you can use these day passes to bring along guests.

Passes are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and there is a limit of four per family. To order, email Sarah Albers at [recprograms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:recprograms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org) or call 781-316-8181.

### Savings on All Recreation Programs

The Arlington Recreation Department is also offering AFC members across-the-board savings! AFC members receive \$5 off all Rec. Dept. programs, including Club Rec, Kids Corner, Summer Adventure, Multi-Sports, and many other contracted summer clinics.

Discounts are also available on Reservoir season: \$5 off individual/\$10 off family season passes. Mention AFC when you register, either at the Rec. Dept. Office (422 Summer St.) or by phone (781-316-3880). You can also register online. Household account credits will be given by calling 781-316-3880.

Note that AFC discounted **day** passes to the Res must be ordered through AFC (see left for details).

To see the Rec. Dept. summer brochure, visit: [http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/public\\_documents/arlingtonma\\_recreation/brochures/SpringSummer2009.pdf](http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/public_documents/arlingtonma_recreation/brochures/SpringSummer2009.pdf).

## Kindergarten Connections: June Events

AFC's Kindergarten Connections volunteers have scheduled numerous play dates for incoming kindergartners and their families to meet this summer! The following events are for children entering kindergarten in September. Additional events will be announced in upcoming newsletters.

Times for rain date events are the same as those of the originally scheduled event.

**Bishop:** Saturday, June 27, 10:00am–12:00pm. Menotomy Rocks Park playground (enter at Jason St. entrance and follow path left of the pond). Rain date: Sunday, June 28. Contacts: Catherine Hoffman (catherinewhoffman@hotmail.com), Amy Juodawlkis (ajuodawlkis@informedhorizons.com, 781 648 0073).

**Brckett:** Saturday, June 13, 9:30–11:00am at Robbins Farm playground. Look for our sign at one of the picnic tables. Rain date: Sunday, June 14. Contact: Mary Wagner (marywags99@gmail.com, 781-777-2777).

**Dallin:** Saturday, June 6, 10:00am–12:00pm at Parallel Park (Medford Street at Mystic Valley Parkway Rotary). Rain date: Saturday, June 13. Contact: Lauren Boyle (lvarian@aim.com), Karen Connors (ckconnors@rcn.com, 781-643-0773), Julie Powell (tompowell@rcn.com, 781 316 8554).

**Peirce:** Saturday, June 13, 10:00am–2:00pm at the Peirce Spring Fair (event open to entire Peirce community). Look for the K-Connections poster in the kindergarten playground area where we'll be offering face paintings. Free admission, minimal charge for some activities. Rain date: Sunday, June 14. Contact: Amy Cooper (amyd2@earthlink.net), Sarah Forney (skaforney@yahoo.com, 781 859 5085), Betsy Lawson (betsy01@verizon.net, (781) 646-5812).

**Stratton:** Tuesday, June 9 at the Stratton Annual Ice Cream Social. Meet us at the playground at 5pm, before the school-wide social begins at 6pm. Bring a picnic dinner, if you like. Look for a calendar of play dates for the summer at the Stratton Kindergarten Orientation on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the School. Contact: Megan Caradonna ([megnpete@verizon.net](mailto:megnpete@verizon.net)).

**Thompson:** Saturday, June 20, 10:00–11:00am at the Thompson School playground/Lussiano Park. Rain date: Saturday, June 27, same time. Contact: Kristen Holmstrand (fieryboots@yahoo.com, 781-646-5065).

**Homeschoolers:** Wednesday, June 3, 1:00–3:00pm at Menotomy Rocks Park playground (enter at Jason St. entrance and follow path left of the pond). Come early and bring a picnic lunch. Canceled if under 45 degrees and/or raining. Rain date: June 17. Contact: Jean Rudd ([ruddjean@yahoo.com](mailto:ruddjean@yahoo.com) 617 335-6120).

**Arlington Children's Center (ACC):** Saturday, June 20, 10:30am–12:30pm. Bishop School playground. Contact: Usha I. ([dreamermama@gmail.com](mailto:dreamermama@gmail.com)).

Look for monthly announcements about upcoming dates for all of Arlington's public elementary schools! For general information about Kindergarten Connections, contact Mary Ellen Aronow at [kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org).

### AFC Directory

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

**Book Group** - Shannon LeMay-Finn and Michael Schneider  
[bookgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:bookgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Clerk** - Eileen Coleman

**Community Service** - Lauren Boyle, Liz Katzman, Mary Wagner, and Amy Yelin  
[community@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:community@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

**Kindergarten Connections** - Mary Ellen Aronow  
[kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:kinderconnect@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

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

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

**Working Moms** - Su Joun and Sara Wilkinson  
[workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto: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 for bylined articles remains with the individual author. All other materials are ©2009 Arlington Family Connection. 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. Send editorial submissions to: [newsletter@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:newsletter@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org); calendar listings to [calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)



## That Bedtime Story Might Be by Mom

By Sarah Endo

Ensnored in his car seat en route to Arlington Heights Nursery School, three-year-old Zeke asks, "Can you reach your hands to the sky? Is that possible?"—before answering his own question in a Joycean stream of ideas. His mom, author Margaret Muirhead, hears writer's gold in his musings; she jots them down as soon as she parks. Zeke asks, "What are you writing, Mom?"

What indeed! The freelance writer and editor has a variety of projects bubbling at any given time: peek under a lid and you might find a children's book about bugs, an article for *Family Fun*, or something for Oxford University Press. But right now, dessert is out of the oven. Her first picture book, *Mabel One and Only*, debuted this spring. Muirhead, who lives in East Arlington with husband Pete and sons Zeke and Abe, created Mabel over a period of years while freelancing and raising her inspirational boys.

### **Sarah Endo: How did you make the leap from reader to writer of children's books?**

Margaret Muirhead: In college and a graduate writing program, I wrote short stories and poems— always short things! So trying to write a picture book was a natural step.

### **SE: How did you start the process of making it happen?**

MM: I started my first real attempt at writing a children's picture book after I watched a friend [David Gavril, author of *Penelope Nuthatch*] write and illustrate, submit, and publish one. It was important for me to see that a person could do such a thing.

### **SE: Mabel is a spunky heroine who has been compared to Olivia and Eloise. How does Mabel resemble real kids in Arlington?**

MM: Like a lot of kids in Arlington (and beyond), Mabel has a single, working parent. Maybe because of this, she depends on the grownups in her community—in this case, her apartment building—for extra care and attention. Kids with two parents need this, too—a community of adults that look out for them. Mabel is also good at thinking up things to do (something the kids on my block are brilliant at), from endless Wiffle ball games to mock Olympic sports to digging for worms and making "potions" of dirt and grass and leaves.

### **SE: Since writing *Mabel*, has anything changed in the way you experience kids' books?**

MM: We still haul home dozens of books from the Fox every week. I'm hobbled from carrying so many books, but it's worth it. I keep my eye on illustrations I like (in case I might dabble in that area some day) and am always on the lookout for funny stories with great characters.

### **SE: What are some of your family's favorites?**

MM: We love Bob Graham and Amy Schwartz, Petra Mathers and Lynne Rae Perkins, and Simon James (*Baby Brains*).

### **SE: What do your kids think of their mom being a published author?**

MM: My three-year-old Zeke is happily confused to see *Mabel* in bookstores. He can't quite understand why there are so many copies of it. My nine-year-old Abe gets this wide, proud smile. It makes me wonder if he might get the writing bug some day.

### **SE: What advice would you give Abe—or other kids or adults who want to become published authors?**

MM: Read books you love. Go to the library and discover new books. Read for fun. Then you will get the writing bug—and pick up lots of lessons about writing without even trying. And, parents, read to your kids (even the big kids). Read something you both like—something good, suspenseful, complicated, mysterious, irreverent, funny, or downright silly.

Inspired? Take Muirhead's Children's Book Writing class at the Arlington Center for the Arts this fall, pick up a signed copy of *Mabel* at Maxima Art Center, or learn more at [www.margaretmuirhead.com](http://www.margaretmuirhead.com).

You can also join Muirhead for "Picture Book Author Day," Saturday, June 13, 10:30 am, at Newtonville Books in Newton.

# AFC in Action

## May Highlights



**Seed Planting Outing**



**Puddlestompers**

## June AFC Events

*Note that the AFC Book Group will not be meeting regularly this summer. It will resume regular meeting times in the fall. The Dad's Book Group will continue to meet on the first Wednesday of the month.*

### Drop-in Playgroup

**Tuesday, June 2**

**3:30-5 pm.** Fox Library Community Room, East Arlington. First Tuesday of month. Drop in any time. Perfect for non-mobile babies! A great place for caregivers to get to know each other. Ages 0-4. Free. Sandra, 781-859-5050, [playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:playgroup@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

### Dad's Book Group

**Wednesday, June 3**

**7:30 pm.** Starbucks, Arlington Center. The book is *The Curious Incident of the Dog at Night-Time* by Mark Haddon. Come even if you don't have a chance to read the book, and bring suggestions for the next month's book. Mike, 781-643-6391, [mikesch@alum.mit.edu](mailto:mikesch@alum.mit.edu)

### Nature Walk

**Monday, June 8  
(rain date June 15)**

**3:30pm.** Whipple Hill Conservation Area, Winchester Drive (across from Berkshire Drive), Lexington. Explore this beautiful wooded area, swing on the giant rope swing, and look for birds, frogs, and ducks. Note: trails are not stroller-friendly. Free. Amy, 781-646-5417, [outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

### Monthly Planning Meeting

**Monday, June 8**

**7:30 pm.** Robbins Library, Arl. Ctr., 4th Floor. All members, feedback and ideas welcome! Amy, 781-646-5417, [info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:info@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

### Working Moms Group

**Wednesday, June 17**

**7:30 pm.** Isis Maternity, 387 Mass Ave., Arl. Ctr. Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Over 40% of AFC moms are juggling both careers and families. Get together with other working moms—new and experienced! RSVP: [workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:workingmoms@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

### AFC at the Spinners

**Saturday, June 20**

**5:05 pm.** LaLecheur Park, Lowell. Come have fun at the ballpark with AFC. Bring your family to see this Class-A Boston Red Sox affiliate play the Vermont Lake Monsters. In addition to the game, the "Spinnertainment" of the night includes elaborate face painting, playing catch in the outfield after the game, and a post-game movie (TBD) for all you night owls. \$8/ticket with children under 4 free (if on an adult's lap). RSVP to Karen, 781-643-0773, [outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

### Strawberry Picking at Verrill Farms

**Monday, June 22  
Rain date June 29**

**10:00 am.** Verrill Farms, Sudbury Road, Concord. <http://www.verrillfarm.com> Come and pick your own strawberries at a family farm that's been around since 1922 (despite a significant fire last September). Support locally-grown food and take home delicious strawberries. As of this writing, the price of strawberries per pound has not yet been set by the Farm. We should know more as the date approaches, so watch your emails for information. Karen, 781-643-0773, [outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

### Outing to Bergin Park

**Tuesday, June 30**

**10:00 am.** Bergin Park, Haskell St., off Pemberton St. (by the Peabody School), North Cambridge. Come beat the heat with us at this sprinkler park and playground. Free. Eileen, 617-620-1772 or [outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

## SAVE THE DATE FOR Circus Smirkus



**Saturday, August 1, 1:00 pm  
Beachmont School, Revere**

Join us in seeing the Circus Smirkus Big Top Tour. *Smirkus Ever After* is a mix of treasured tales and fractured fables retold in the center ring. Circus Smirkus is a non-profit, award-winning international youth circus founded with a mission to promote the skills, culture and traditions of the traveling circus and to inspire youth to engage in life-changing adventures in the circus arts. <http://www.circusmirkus.org>

**\$10/ticket**, with children under 2 free if on a lap (one child per adult lap).

**RSVP by July 18** to Karen 781-643-0773, [outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:outings@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

## Volunteers Needed: Childcare & Preschool Options Committee

Each year, AFC updates its popular “Childcare and Preschool Options in Arlington” booklet, and hosts an open house in October, where parents and caregivers meet with representatives from local preschool and daycare facilities.

We are seeking two to three volunteers to help update the booklet and run the “Options Night” open house. Help us make this year’s book and event a success!

Contact Eileen Coleman at 617-620-1772 or email [options@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:options@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org) to volunteer.

## 24 More Ways to Stay Cool This Summer...

If you want to venture beyond Arlington’s Res this summer, a good place to start is this map of the 24 sprinkler parks in Cambridge: [http://www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/cp/parks/waterplay\\_map.pdf](http://www.cambridgema.gov/~CDD/cp/parks/waterplay_map.pdf)

The parks often begin operating before the Arlington Reservoir opens in late June. Some even have toddler-sized jets, and most are free.

Another resource for finding sprinkler parks is: <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/recreate/pools.htm>

Arlington also has its own sprinkler park at the Thompson School playground on North Union Street. Don’t forget sunscreen!

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## AFC Gives to the Library

The generosity of our members allows us to make occasional gifts to local organizations that share AFC’s mission of supporting and enriching the lives of families with young children in Arlington.

This spring, we are delighted to be able to support the Arlington Public Library by purchasing a box set of the Magic Tree House series (books 1–28) for each of Arlington’s two libraries.

Millions of children are devoted to these books (written by Mary Pope Osborne). The books revolve around the adventures of Jack and Annie, a brother and sister who find a mysterious tree house in the woods. They discover that the tree house can take them to different places and times, where they meet figures in history and face challenges they overcome together.

While these books are written for elementary school-aged children, they’re also certain to interest preschoolers and offer a chance for you to read with your children.

One mom said, “My five-year-old son loves these books. He is not able to read them yet but is able to listen attentively and really loves the storylines. Once we finish one, he can’t wait to start the next!”

These books would be great summertime reading with your kids. Enjoy!

**Arlington Playgrounds Overview** – This chart provides an overview of playgrounds in Arlington plus a few notable playgrounds in nearby towns. Please report any inaccuracies to [calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org](mailto:calendar@arlingtonfamilyconnection.org)

<b>Playground</b> <i>(region)</i> <i>Click for Google Map</i>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Playground Features</b>	<b>Sun/ shade</b>	<b>Fencing</b>	<b>Other Features</b>
<a href="#">Bishop School</a> <i>Arlington Center</i>	25 Columbia Rd. (near Rt. 3)	Climbing sphere and multi-kid swings. Also, large play structure, swings, large tires, tire swings, mulch surface.	Full sun	Partial	Adjacent to soccer field, hardtop for riding bikes. School uses playground until 2pm, afterschool program shares with public until @4:30pm.
<a href="#">Brackett School</a> <i>Arlington Heights</i>	Eastern Ave. (off Park. Ave.)	1) Large older-kid structure. 2) Separate tot structure on opposite side of building. Wood chip surfaces.	1) Partial shade 2) Full sun	1) ¾ fenced 2) Fully, except entrances	Older kid structure adjacent to basketball court. School uses playgrounds until 2pm, afterschool program shares with public until @4:30pm.
<a href="#">Buzzell Playground</a> <i>Arlington Center</i>	Summer St. (near Dunkin Donuts)	Tot structure, swings, sand surface.	Full sun	Fully, except entrances	Adjacent to Minuteman Bike Path, baseball field, basketball court (for bike riding, too)
<a href="#">Clarendon Park</a> <i>N. Cambridge</i>	Clarendon St. & Mass. Ave. (few blocks from Arl. line)	Large hard-top area with many ride-on toys, large tot and older-kid structures, play house, play boat, seesaw and other misc. apparatus. Also, many sand toys, sand surface.	Partial shade	Fully fenced	Can also bring a bike to ride on hard top area. Some grassy shaded areas for picnic.
<a href="#">Colebrook Playground</a> <i>W. Medford</i>	Mystic River Rd., Medford (along the Mystic River)	Tot structure, large climbing sphere, swings, and other misc. apparatus, padded surface.	Partial shade	Fully, except entrance	Adjacent to the river and tennis courts. Has hard top for riding bikes.
<a href="#">Crosby School</a> (Dearborn Academy) <i>E. Arlington</i>	Oxford St. (between Mass. Ave. & Broadway)	Large play structure, swings, mulch surface.	Partial shade	None	Hardtop for riding bikes, adjacent to soccer field, tennis, and basketball courts.
<a href="#">Cutter School</a> <i>Arlington Heights</i>	School St. or Robbins Rd. (off Mass. Ave.)	Large play structure, swings, mulch surface.	Full sun	Fully, except entrance	Grassy area next to playground, paved sidewalk around playground for riding bikes.
<a href="#">Dallin School</a> <i>Arlington Heights</i>	Florence Ave. (off Park Ave.)	1) padded surface area with 3 tot structures; 2) large area with multiple structures, swings, and sand surface; 3) small set-apart tot area with small structure, swings with mulch surface.	1) full sun; 2) partial shade; 3) full shade	1) Fully fenced 2 & 3) no fencing	Tot area (new in 2006) has hardtop area for bike riding. School uses tot playground (1) until 2pm, after school program shares (2) with public until @4:30pm. Adjacent to soccer field.
<a href="#">Gibbons Park</a> <i>N. Cambridge</i>	Columbus Ave., Camb. (parallel to Rt 16 near Mass. Ave.)	Older-kid and tot structures, huge sand box with toys, swings, ride-on toys.	Mostly shaded	Fully fenced	Picnic tables, small grassy area for play/picnic
<a href="#">Hardy School</a> <i>E. Arlington</i>	Lake St.	Very large older-kid structure with rock wall. Multiple tot structures, swings, mulch surface.	Full sun	Fully fenced	Adjacent to basketball court, hardtop area for bikes. School uses playground until 2pm, afterschool program shares with public until @4:30pm, close to bike path.
<a href="#">Lesley Ellis School</a> <i>E. Arlington</i>	Tufts St.	Multiple tot structures, play house, sand box, mulch surface.	Mostly shaded	Fully fenced	Playground available for public use on weekends and after 5:30pm weekdays.
<a href="#">Locke School</a> <i>Arlington Heights</i>	Davis Rd. (off Mass. Ave.)	Large play structure, swings, mulch surface.	Full sun	¾ fenced	Picnic tables, hardtop for riding bikes.
<a href="#">Lussiano Park</a> (Thompson School) <i>E. Arlington</i>	N. Union St. (off Broadway)	Two small tot structures and misc. apparatus. Also large play structure, swings, padded surface (new in 2006).	Full sun	None	Adjacent to spray park, baseball & soccer fields, basketball court (good for bikes). School uses playground until 2pm, afterschool program shares with public until @4:30pm.

<b>Playground</b> <i>(region)</i> <i>Click for Google Map</i>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Playground Features</b>	<b>Sun/ shade</b>	<b>Fencing</b>	<b>Other Features</b>
<a href="#">McClellenn Park</a> <i>Arlington Heights</i>	Summer St. (near Lexington line)	Older-kid (spider web, rock wall) and tot structures, rocking apparatus, swings, padded surface.	Full sun	¾ fenced	Hardtop for bike riding, adjacent to soccer and baseball fields, walking paths, and skateboard park.
<a href="#">Magnolia Park</a> <i>E. Arlington</i>	Herbert Rd. (end Magnolia St.)	Older-kid and tot structures, swings, sand surface.	Mostly sun	None	Adjacent to Minuteman Bike Path, soccer fields, basketball court. Popular dog walking spot.
<a href="#">Menotomy Rocks</a> <i>Arlington Heights</i>	127 Jason St.	Large play structure, swings, mulch surface.	Full shade	None	33 acres with fishing pond (and ducks!) and walking paths. Popular dog walking spot. Can be buggy in the summer.
<a href="#">Mullen Playground</a> <i>Winchester</i>	Lockeland Rd. (off Ridge St.)	Older-kid and tot structures, large play “truck”, four-person see-saw, swings, mulch surface.	Mostly sun	Fully	Next to large soccer field (mostly fenced) and baseball diamond.
<a href="#">Parallel Playground</a> <i>E. Arlington</i>	Medford St. at Mystic Valley Parkway Rotary	Older-kid and tot structures, rocking apparatus, seesaw, swings, mulch surface.	Tot area mostly shaded	Fully, except for entrance	Large field to play, some hardtop for biking, picnic tables, adjacent to basketball court.
<a href="#">Parmenter School</a> <i>Arlington Center</i>	Academy St. & Irving St. (off Mass. Ave.)	Large play structure, large tires, tire swing, mulch surface.	Full sun	½ fenced	Adjacent to basketball court, hardtop for bikes. Playground also used by Arl. Children's Center and The International School. No parking.
<a href="#">Peirce School</a> <i>Arlington Heights</i>	Newland Rd. (corner Summer St. & Park Ext.)	2 separated structures: tot structure with swings, padded surface; large older-kid structure with swings, mulch surface.	Full sun	Tot area fully fenced, other has none	Older-kid area adjacent to field and also has picnic table. Tot area has hardtop for bikes. School uses playground until 2pm, afterschool program shares with public until @4:30pm.
<a href="#">Poets Corner</a> <i>Arl. Heights/Arlmont</i>	Shelley Rd. (next to Rt. 2)	Tot structure, swings, metal climbing structure, sand surface.	Full sun	None	Adjacent to open fields.
<a href="#">Recreation Dept.</a> <i>Arlington Heights</i>	Summer St.	Multiple, tot structures, misc. apparatus, swings, mulch surface.	Partial shade	Partial	Adjacent to Minuteman Bike Path, basketball court, soccer & baseball fields.
<a href="#">Reservoir Beach</a> <i>Arlington Heights</i>	Lowell St.	Large play structure and misc. apparatus, sand surface.	Partial shade	None	Reservoir Beach fee to access playground (when Res is open). Adjacent to swimming area, bathrooms, walking paths.
<a href="#">Robbins Farm Park</a> <i>Arlington Heights</i>	Eastern Ave. (across from Brackett School)	Huge park with many play structures and apparatus, swings, sand box w/ toys, huge slide, mulch surface.	Partial shade	Partial near street	Adjacent to soccer, baseball, and open fields, picnic tables, great views of Boston. Good place for kite flying.
<a href="#">Spy Pond Playground</a> <i>Arlington Center</i>	Pond Lane	Older kid and tot structures, swings, sand surface.	Full sun	Fully fenced	Adjacent to Minuteman Bike Path and Spy Pond (great duck watching!), walking paths, shady picnic tables, grassy shoreline.
<a href="#">Stratton School</a> <i>Arlington Center N. (Turkey Hill)</i>	Pheasant Ave. or Mountain Ave.	Older kid and tot structures, swings, sand surface.	Tot area partial shade	None except along street	Adjacent to large field, popular dog playing spot, picnic table. School uses playground until 2pm, after school program shares with public until @4:30pm.
<a href="#">Waldo Playground</a> <i>E. Arlington</i>	Waldo St. or Teel St. (between Mass. Ave. & Broadway)	Large play structure, rocking apparatus, swings, occasional ride-on toys, mulch surface.	Full sun	Fully fenced	Picnic tables, adjacent to basketball court and field, hardtop for bike riding.
<a href="#">Whittemore Robbins House</a> <i>Arlington Center</i>	Behind Robbins Library	Tot structure, sand box, sand surface.	Full shade	None	Adjacent to grassy lawn area and gardens.

Source: Arlington Family Connection, June 2009

# Local Events & Activities — June

## Arlington Venues

**Arlington Boys & 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. [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. [www.robbinslibrary.org](http://www.robbinslibrary.org)

**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.robbinslibrary.org](http://www.robbinslibrary.org)

**Together in Motion**, 1 Broadway, at Route 16. 781-643-1377. [www.togetherinmotion.com](http://www.togetherinmotion.com)

## Special Events for Families

### **Arlington Boys and Girls Club Summer Open House**

June 3, 6-7pm. Visit facility and meet staff to discuss all the activities offered.

### **Jimmy Fund Scooper Bowl**

June 9–11, City Hall Plaza in Boston. 12–8pm every day. All-you-can-eat ice cream to benefit the Jimmy Fund. Purchase tickets at [www.jimmyfund.org](http://www.jimmyfund.org)

### **Peirce School Spring Fair**

Sat, June 13, 10 am–2 pm. (rain date: Sun., June 14). Peirce Elementary School, 85 Park Ave. Ext, Arl. (intersection with Summer St., Rt. 2A). Activities for all ages: preschool and up. Games, crafts, moonwalk, cake walk, prizes, refreshments! Free admission, charge for some activities, rides & games.

### **Annual Feast of the East**

Sat. June 13, 1–5pm. This celebration will take place along Mass Ave in Arlington from the Capitol Theater block to JN Phillips Auto Glass. Activities include sampling of local restaurants, merchant sales and giveaways, live music, and crafts. Children's activities include a moon bounce, carousel, pony rides, clowns, face painting, crafts for kids, and much more. Free popcorn and cotton candy. Info: [www.feastoftheeast.com](http://www.feastoftheeast.com)

### **Strawberry Festival**

Sat. June 20, 12–4pm. Verrill Farm, 11 Wheeler Road, Concord. Activities include a folk sing-along for all ages, Giddy-up ponies and hay rides. Info: 978-369-4494 or [www.verrillfarm.com](http://www.verrillfarm.com)

### Musical, Theater and Other Performances **Puppet Showplace and Theater**

Wed. and Thurs. at 10:30am and Sat. and Sun. at 1 and 3pm. 32 Station St, Brookline (across from Brookline Village T.) New shows each week and weekend, last 45mn to 1hr, and are

for ages 3+. \$10/person. Tickets and info: 617-791-6400 or [www.puppetshowplace.org](http://www.puppetshowplace.org).

### **BosTix Junior**

Bring your child to the theater to see family friendly plays and musical productions. Info: [www.BosTix.org](http://www.BosTix.org)

### Special Event for Moms

#### **Mommies Who Shop**

Thurs., Jun 10, 6-10pm at Regis College, 235 Wellesley St, Weston. Peruse a selection of handcrafted clothes, toys, books, and gear for babies, kids and expecting moms by up-and-coming artists and designers. Sip and shop with your friends in this upbeat boutique atmosphere. Enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres, a wine bar, spa lounge, freebies and more! All items at Mommies Who Shop offered at "special event" pricing. For tickets and info visit: [www.mommieswhoshop.com](http://www.mommieswhoshop.com)

### Sing-alongs & Music

#### **Monday**

11am, **Stellabella Toys**, 1967 Mass. Ave., Porter Sq., Camb. Free. Info: 617-864-6290.

#### **Wednesday**

3pm, **Finagle a Bagel**, 91 Middlesex Tpke, Burl. Ed Morgan performs original and classic children's songs. Free. 781-273-6500, [www.finagleabagel.com](http://www.finagleabagel.com)

#### **Thursday**

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

#### **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month**

10am, **Calvary Church**, 300 Mass. Ave. Join Diane Taraz for a fun sing-a-long, \$2/person, \$5/family, Info: [www.dianetaraz.com](http://www.dianetaraz.com)

#### **Saturday**

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

## Story times and Library Programs

### **ROBBINS LIBRARY**

#### **Moving and Grooving**

Fri, Jun 5, 12, 19, 26 at 9-9:45am. Come move, wiggle, dance, and be silly. For ages 1-2 with adult. Sign up for individual sessions at 781-316-3234,

#### **Summer Reading KICK-OFF event**

(sign up for summer reading and come to the show!)

#### Sparky's Puppets – Alien Adventure

Sat., Jun 13, 3-4pm. Watch what happens when three aliens travel to earth and create mischief in a toymakers shop. Ages 3–10. Pick up tickets ½ hr before show (2:30 pm).

#### English Story Time

**Mon.** Jun 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (drop in)

**10:30 am** for ages 18-30 months.

Stories, rhymes and fingerplays for the first 15 minutes followed by a simple craft

**11am** for ages 2½ and up

Longer stories followed by a craft.

**Wed.** Jun. 3, 10 17, 24 at **10:30am**, for 3-5 year olds. Longer stories followed by a craft. Drop in.

#### Spanish story time

Sat. Jun 13 at 9:30am. Stories, songs, books and poems. All ages. Drop in.

#### Sing alongs for Infants and Toddlers

Tues. Jun. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 10-10:30. Space is limited; tickets are given out day of event, beginning at 9am.

### **FOX LIBRARY**

**Tall, Taller or Tallest?** – Math Fun for Preschoolers

Jun. 3, 10, 17, 24, 3-4pm. Learn fun math skills with Shahidah Ahmed: measurement, area, volume, and temperature. Ages 3-5 with adult. Sign up for all four sessions by calling 781-316-3198.

**Summer Reading KICK-OFF** event (sign up for summer reading and come to the show!)

**Blast Off with Books – Mike Bent Magic Show**

Wed., Jun 10, 6:30-7:15pm. Hilarious stories, amazing magic, music, and puppets! Ages 4-10. Pick up ticket 1/2 hr. before (6:00).

**Sing-alongs**

Thurs, Jun 4, 11, 18, 25 at 10am, (the first Thursday of every month). For infants and toddlers. Join Sulinha for singing, dancing, and fun.

**English story time**

Tues. Jun. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
10:00am for ages 2-3

10:30am for ages 4-5

Stories and finger plays followed by a craft. Drop in.

**Storytimes**

**Tuesday**

**Barnes & Noble** for preschoolers  
10:30am, 98 Middlesex Tpke., Burlington.  
Free. Info: 781-273-3871.

**Harvard Coop** for ages 2-4

11am, 1400 Mass. 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  
Info: 617-491-2220,  
[www.portersquarebooks.com](http://www.portersquarebooks.com)

**Thursday**

**Henry Bear's Park** for ages 3-6

11am, 685 Mass. Ave., Arl. Free. Info: 781-646-9400 or [www.henrybear.com](http://www.henrybear.com)

11am (call to confirm) 361 Huron Ave, Camb.  
Free. Info: 617-547-8424 or  
[www.henrybear.com](http://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](http://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](http://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://store.thecoop.com>

**Arlington – Other Activities**

**Arlington Boys & Girls Club**

Offers fun summer classes including swimming. Info: [www.abgclub.org](http://www.abgclub.org)

**Arlington Center for the Arts**

Offers many fun classes for children.

Info: 781-648-6220 or [www.acarts.org](http://www.acarts.org).

**Arlington Children's Theater**

Register for fall workshops including Musical Theater, Creative Movement and Story Theater, all for ages 3-5. Other classes for ages 6 & up offered as well. Info and registration at 781-316-8090 or [act.arlington.ma.us](http://act.arlington.ma.us).

**Reservoir Beach – SUMMER FUN**

Opens June 22, 10am-8pm daily. Lowell St, Arl. Swimming classes will be offered by rec. dept. To purchase summer tags or daily passes contact 781-316-3880 or visit [www.arlingtonma.gov](http://www.arlingtonma.gov)

**Spray Pool – SUMMER FUN**

Opens June 12, 10am-7pm daily, free. At the Lussiano Park next to the Thompson School on North Union Street. Info: 781-316-3880 or visit [www.arlingtonma.gov](http://www.arlingtonma.gov)

**Arlington Recreation Dept.**

Offers many fun summer classes for children. Info: 781-316-3880 or [www.arlingtonma.gov](http://www.arlingtonma.gov).

**Artbeat Tot Art**

Tues. & Wed., 10:30-11:30am, offering a special art project for ages 18mos to 4yrs, adult supervision required. \$6/child.

**Artbeat Weekend Workshops**

Sat., 3-6pm, 212A Mass. Ave., Arl. A different project each week, free instruction, pay for materials, Ages 4yrs+. Info: 781-646-2200, [www.artbeatonline.com](http://www.artbeatonline.com).

**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](http://www.arlingtonma.gov)

**Capitol Theater Movies for Caregivers with Babies**

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

**Music Together**

Explore what music sounds, looks, and feels like. Now enrolling for 2009 sessions. Call 781-648-4084 or visit [www.musictogetherofarlington.com](http://www.musictogetherofarlington.com)

**Les petits amis – French classes**

**NEW SESSION**

Join instructor Lisa Richtmann for a fun interactive French class for children ages 2-

5yrs. Wed. Jun. 10-Jul. 29 or Thurs. Jun. 11-Jul. 30, 10-10:45am at Fox Library. \$150/session. Register online at the Arlington Recreation Department website or 781-316-3880.

**Arlington Indoor Playspaces**

**Arlington Boys and Girls Club**

**Parent-Tot Connection**, Fri. 9:30-11am.

Drop-in playgroup for toddlers and preschoolers with caregiver. Play, crafts, stories, music. Free. Info: [www.abgclub.org](http://www.abgclub.org)

**Fidelity House**

25 Medford St., Arl., offers classes for preschoolers (drop-in option). **Tot Time**, Fridays, 9:30am or 10:30am, Open gym with different activities to develop fine/gross motor and social skills (parent remains w/child), \$5 drop-in fee (space permitting). Info: 781-648-2005 or [www.FidelityHouse.org](http://www.FidelityHouse.org).

**Isis Maternity**

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

**Drop-in Playgroups:**

Non-mobile babies: Thurs. 1:45-2:45pm

Mobile babies to 3 yrs.: Mon. 3:30-4:30 pm

Free for members, \$5 for non-members. Info: [www.isismaternity.com](http://www.isismaternity.com).

**Together in Motion**

Drop-in playspace entirely padded, with soft play blocks, modules, balls, etc. Mon-Fri 3-5pm for ages 0-6. Tues 11:15am-1:05pm for ages 0-24 months only. \$7/ages 1-6; \$5, 6-12 mos; under 6 mos, free with paying sibling. 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](http://www.togetherinmotion.com)

**Beyond Arlington 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 [currymn@comcast.net](mailto:currymn@comcast.net) or [www.kidsplaybedford.com](http://www.kidsplaybedford.com).

**Belmont Kidspace**

Payson Park Church (lower level) 365 Belmont St. Belmont, This indoor playspace is a parent run co-op where families with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers can have lots of fun. **Mon. & Thurs.** 1-5:30pm, **Fri.** 5-8pm, **Sat.** 9am-12, **2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sun.** 2-5, **3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. of the month** 2-5pm for special children. See website for admission info. [www.belmontkidspace.org](http://www.belmontkidspace.org)

**Energized Athletics**

100 Parker St, Watertown. Open gym Tues.-Thurs. 10am-12pm, Tues. & Thurs. 1-3pm. Ages 5mos-5yrs. There are ride-on toys, soft climbing structures, a "tumble track," and an enormous moonwalk that is used when there

are enough kids. \$5/hour. Info: 617-393-9714 or [www.energizedathletics.com](http://www.energizedathletics.com).

### **Gymnastics Academy of Boston**

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

### **The Klubhouse**

Play on a two story pirate ship or in a castle, ride on a toy race track or giant bouncies, or play in the craft room. Separate toddler room as well. Mon-Fri: 9am-4pm, Sat-Sun: 9am-2pm. \$7-9/child, adults free. 90 Cummings Park, Woburn. Info: 781-937-KLUB or [www.theklubhouse.com](http://www.theklubhouse.com).

### **Lexington PTA Drop in**

Fri, 9:30-11:30am **during the school year**, Kennedy Hall in St. Brigid's School at St. Brigid's Church, 2001 Mass Ave, Lex. (use Worthen Rd. entrance). This indoor playspace is for 0-5yr olds and their parents/caregivers to play, relax, and socialize. \$1/child, Info: 781-862-6965 or [www.lppta.org](http://www.lppta.org).

### **Lexington PTA Winter Fun**

Every other Wed, 9:30-11am **during the school year**. 146 Maple St, Lex. Drop-in arts and crafts program for toddlers and preschoolers. \$2/child. Info: 781-674-225 or [www.lppta.org/winterfun](http://www.lppta.org/winterfun)

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

### **TumbleKids Open Gym**

Thurs. 10:30am-12pm, Fri. 12:30-2pm in Winchester, only Fridays in Watertown. \$10/child. Classes offered for an additional fee. 38 River St., Winchester 781-721-1144 and 201 Arl. St., Watertown, 617-926-2640 or visit [www.tumblekidsusa.com](http://www.tumblekidsusa.com).

### **Waldorf Park**

Fri. 12-1:30pm at Waldorf School, 739 Mass. Ave. Lex. Unstructured playtime. Ages 0-3yrs. Drop-in, donation \$5-10/family. Info: 781-863-1062 or [www.thewaldorfschool.org](http://www.thewaldorfschool.org).

## **Beyond Arlington –**

### **Other Activities**

#### **Family Fun Night at Uno Chicago Grill, Porter Square**

Let the kids make their own pizza and enjoy a balloon artist and an arts & craft station. Meals for kids are about \$5, entertainment is free.

Wednesdays, 5:30-8:30pm, 820 Somerville Ave, Camb. Info: 617-864-1916.

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

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

### **Music Stay & Play Classes**

Register for Wed. Jun. 3-Jul. 17 am class. Children 3 mos to 3.5 yrs (along with caregiver) gather for music and movement, followed by play time for informal fun with friends! WarmLines, 225 Nevada St., Newtonville. Register online at [www.warmlines.org](http://www.warmlines.org) or call 617-244-INFO.

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

### **Register NOW for Lesley Ellis Summer 2009!**

Exciting programs for early childhood (ages 2.9 -5) and elementary-age children (6-11). Weekly Sessions begin June 15. Visit [www.lesleyellis.org](http://www.lesleyellis.org) for a brochure and registration information.

## **Outdoor Local Attractions**

### **Butterfly Place**

120 Tyngsboro Rd., Westford. Open daily 10am-5pm. Large atrium with 500 butterflies representing species from all over the world. \$10/adult, \$7/child 3-12, under 2 free. Info: 978-392-0955, [www.butterflyplace-ma.com](http://www.butterflyplace-ma.com)

### **SUMMER FUN**

#### **Canoeing on the Charles River**

Rent a boat and paddle on the Charles. The rental kiosk is located at Artesani Park off Soldiers Field Road. Open until Oct. 15. Info: (617) 965-5110

#### **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.com](http://www.chip-infarm.com).

#### **Codman Community Farm**

58 Codman Rd, Lincoln. Open Tues-Sun 9am-6pm. \$1.50/person. Non-profit, historic 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](http://www.codmanfarm.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](http://www.massaudubon.org).

### **Ecotarium**

222 Harrington Way, Worcester. Open Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12-5pm. Monthly family preschool programs. Members free, \$10/Non-member adult, \$8/Non-member ages 3-18. Explorer Express train ride, \$2.50/person. Info: 508-929-2700 or [www.ecotarium.org](http://www.ecotarium.org).

### **Habitat Wildlife Sanctuary**

10 Juniper Rd, Belmont. Trails wind through forests and wetlands, across meadows, and around two ponds. Programs for kids. Members free, \$4/non-memb. adult, \$3/non-memb. child. Info: 617-489-5050 or [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.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). \$18.75/adults; \$12.75/ages 3-12; 2 and under free. WGBH & AAA discounts. Info: 800-258-9182 or [www.southwickszoo.com](http://www.southwickszoo.com).

### **Stone Zoo**

149 Pond St., Stoneham. Open daily 10am-4pm, small zoo, with a petting barnyard, playground and many animal exhibits. \$9/Adult, \$6/Ages 2-12, under 2yrs. free, Info: 781-438-5100 or [www.zoonewengland.com](http://www.zoonewengland.com).

### **Swan Boat Rides**

Boston Public Garden. Open weekdays 10am-4pm until June 20. Weekdays 10am-5pm and weekends 10am-4pm, June 21- Labor Day. Weekdays 10am-4pm Sept. 8-Sept. 20. \$2.75/adults, ages 2-15yrs/\$1.50, seniors \$2. Info: 617-522-1966 or [www.swanboats.com](http://www.swanboats.com).

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

52 Gore St., Waltham, Mon-Fri 10am-4pm; Sat 11-3pm. Visit llamas, sheep, goats, and more. Rent an "activity pack" with activities appropriate for children age 3-9. Backpack rental, \$5. Special Concert Sept. 14. Info: 781-894-2798 or [www.goreplace.org](http://www.goreplace.org).

### **SUMMER FUN**

#### **Water spray parks and wading pools**

Visit the following website run by the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation for locations. [www.mass.gov/dcr/recreate/pools.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/recreate/pools.htm)

### **Internet links for more fun**

#### **www.bostoncentral.com**

Fun activities for families in Greater Boston & New England areas.

#### **www.gocitykids.parentsconnect.com**

Nickelodeon's national guide to parenting resources, kids' events, and family-friendly places to go. There is a link for Boston-specific events and places to go.

## **Indoor 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](http://www.bostonkids.org).

### **Children's Discovery Museum**

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

### **Concord Museum**

200 Lexington Rd, Concord. Open daily, Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 12-5pm. Historical, literary, artistic treasures of the area. \$10/adults, children under 6 free. Info: 978- 369-9763 or [www.concordmuseum.org](http://www.concordmuseum.org).

### **Harvard Museum of Natural History**

26 Oxford St, Cambridge. Open daily 9am-5pm. Wide array of stuffed animals in the mammal exhibit. 40-ft dinosaur replica. \$9/adult, \$6/ages 3-18. Free for MA residents every Sun. 9am-noon, Wed. 3-5pm. Info: 617-495-3045 or [www.hmn.harvard.edu](http://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](http://www.icaboston.org).

### **Museum of Fine Arts**

465 Huntington Ave., Boston. Family Place, for families with children 4+, interactive art activities, Sat-Sun, 11am-4pm. Info: 617-267-9300 or [www.mfa.org](http://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](http://www.mos.org).

### **National Heritage Museum**

33 Marrett Rd., Rt. 2A, Lexington. Open daily 10am-5pm, Sun 12-5pm. Great monthly programs including story times with crafts. Free admission. Info: 781-861-6559 or [www.monh.org](http://www.monh.org).

### **New England Aquarium**

Central Wharf, Boston. Open daily 9am-5pm, Sat & Sun until 6pm. \$19.95/adult, \$11.95/children ages 3-11, free for children under 3. Info: 617-973-5200 or [www.neaq.org](http://www.neaq.org).

## **Seminars and Open Houses**

### **Child Studies**

Have you ever wondered what your infant is thinking when they meet a new person or play with a new toy? The Tufts University

Emotion, Brain, and Behavior Lab is seeking subjects for studies whose goal is to gain knowledge that will contribute to the development of children. The lab is conducting studies with infants 3 to 7 months old as well as with older children. For info call 617-627-3478 or email [babylab@tufts.edu](mailto:babylab@tufts.edu).

### **Benefit**

#### **Little Fox Resale Shop**

Open Tues. & Thurs. 9am-12pm, Wed. 2:30-8pm, on the upper level of the Fox Library. Benefiting the library, the shop includes toys, books, children's gear, maternity clothes, and more. Info: [www.littlefoxshop.com](http://www.littlefoxshop.com).

### **Support 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 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs. of the month 9:30-11am in northwest Cambridge. Registration required, \$25/meeting. Info: 617-441-0758 or [www.yourclearvoice@msn.com](mailto:www.yourclearvoice@msn.com)

#### **ADHD Support Group for Women**

New session begins every few months. Meets Tues. 6-7:30pm twice a month in Lexington. Cost is approx. \$50. Contact Heidi Lack, Ph.D., A.T.R.-BC, at 781-863-8696 for info.

#### **Adoptive Families Chat & Play**

First Sat. of each month, 3:30-4:30pm, ISIS Maternity, Arl. A collaboration between Isis and ACONE, join us for an hour of playtime, support and networking. Children 0-3 welcome. PLEASE RSVP by contacting Becky Moyer at (617) 721-6783 or [beckym678@yahoo.com](mailto:beckym678@yahoo.com).

#### **Boston Babywearers**

3rd Wed. of each month, 10:30am-12:30pm, College Avenue United Methodist Church, 14 Chapel Street, Somerville. Find the right baby carrier for you and/or learn how to use the carrier you own. Enjoy their free carrier lending library too. **Weekend meeting Jun. 20, 10:30am-12:30pm** Cary Library, 1874 Mass Ave, Lex. Info: [www.bostonbabywearers.com](http://www.bostonbabywearers.com).

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

Thurs. 3pm, Isis Maternity, For nursing moms and babies, Free, Staffed by certified lactation consultants, Info: [www.isismaternity.com](http://www.isismaternity.com).

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. of the month, 12-1:30pm. For grandparents who are primary caretakers of their grandchildren. Free. Info: 781-316-3410.

#### **La Leche League**

Dedicated to providing education, information, and support to breastfeeding women. Meetings in Fox Library basement 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. of

each month at 7:30pm, or 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. of the month at 10am in Cambridge (175 Harvey St.). Free For info contact Heather 781-648-2988 or <http://www.lleus.org/web/ArlingtonCambridgeMa.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/](http://www.jri.org/cfys/).

#### **New Babies/New Mom's Group**

First-time mothers bring infants up to 6 mos old to meet with other mothers and a leader for support and discussion. Info: [www.warmlines.org](http://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. 10:30am-12pm, 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**

3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. 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**

Fri. 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.

#### **Postpartum Support Hotline**

The Postpartum Support International of MA telephone WARMLINE provides toll-free and confidential information, support, and listings of local resources such as PPD groups and clinicians. A therapist volunteer covers the email & phone line, and returns messages to individuals, family, or friends, and professionals looking for mental health resources: 1-866-472-1897 or <http://postpartum.net/local-support/?state=MA>

#### **We Are Family**

3<sup>rd</sup> 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/](http://www.jri.org/cfys/).

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

**June 2009**

## AFC Membership/Renewal Form

**New member**  **Renewal** Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gift membership from:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

**AFC newsletters are sent out via email. If you prefer to receive a printed newsletter, please email or call us with your request and we will be happy to mail it to you.**

**Would you like to receive occasional AFC emails?**

(e-bulletin, special event announcements, etc.)

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

**Would you like to be contacted about volunteering?**

Yes  No

**Volunteer 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Fees:** All memberships renew in August, 2009 and begin September 1st for a flat \$20 per year.

**Sponsor Member (\$25).** Enjoy the usual membership benefits and make a donation to support new programs.

**Standard Member.** 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