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**New playgroups begin the week of September 11.** Registration is required for all groups: lmatthews@jri.org. No fees. Children may be registered for one group. All groups require participation of a parent or caregiver. Your child’s age should match the group’s description on the first day of playgroup.

**When registering, please let us know any dates you will be unable to attend, and also whether there will be more than one adult and one child attending each week.**

Families who do not notify us of absences may be replaced with someone from the wait list.

**Baby Playgroup:** Group includes developmental discussions and handouts, playtime, circle time with finger plays, rhymes and songs. Based on the Parents Interacting With Infants model. Limited to 12. **Wait list open**

**Appropriate for ages 3-11 Months 9/14-12/14 (not 11/23)**

**Held at Sargent Memorial Library, Boxborough Thursdays, 10:30-11:30**

***Participants for the following playgroups who do not live in our grant catchment area*** *(Acton, Bedford, Boxboro, Carlisle, Concord, Harvard, Hanscom AFB, Lincoln, Littleton, Maynard, Sudbury and Westford)* ***will be confirmed one week before groups begin as space allows.***

**Older Baby Playgroup:**  This group will have free play time at the beginning, and stories and songs at the end. The facilitator will be available to talk to and answer questions, but we won't have the same structured adult talking time as in the infant group because the children are starting to move around and sitting still for more than a few minutes is too much to ask! Based on the Parents Interacting With Infants model. Limited to 16.

**Appropriate for ages 10-18 months who are crawling or walking**

**Held at First Parish Church, Bedford**   **Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00 p.m.**

**Toddler Art-Literacy Group for 1 Year Olds:**

This group is for confidently-walking toddlers and will include free play in a preschool classroom with time to work on social skills such as sharing and waiting for a turn. Circle and story time, as well as some art and sensory activities which may be messy or wet, so don’t wear your best clothes! Reading Rockets handouts will help continue learning at home. Limited to 12. **Wait list.**

**Appropriate for Ages 12-24 Months 9/15-12/15 (not 11/24)**

**Held at Village Nursery School in Harvard Fridays, 10-11:00**

**Art-Literacy Playgroup for 2 Year Olds**

In this group, we will have free play time where an art, fine motor, or sensory activity will be available for children to choose, followed by a circle time with songs and books. Children will have time to work on social skills, as well as their fine motor and cognitive skills, in a preschool classroom. Reading Rockets handouts will help continue learning at home. Limited to 12. **Wait list open.**

**Appropriate for Ages 24-36 months 9/11-12/11 (not 10/9)**

**Held at Woods Edge Children’s Center, Sudbury Mondays, 10-11:00**

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**Multilingual Families Playgroup** **(babies in carriers welcome)**

A child’s primary language and culture are key contributors to lifelong development. **This playgroup is specifically for families who are conversing in a language other than English as part of their family culture and daily life.** The group will include a Read & Rise monthly parent discussion topic, led by a parent educator, centering on how culture, traditions, and everyday fun family experiences can help foster their child’s literacy and language development. On November 14 a speech and language pathologist will speak to parents about Language Development in Bilingual Families (families registered for the Tuesday or Wednesday group may attend this presentation). Families should bring a snack for their child. During registration, please let us know:

1) if your child has a life-threatening anaphylactic food allergy

2) what the language other than English is that is spoken at home on a daily basis

3) who will be attending the group each week with your child

**Appropriate for Ages 18 Months thru 5 Tuesdays or Wednesdays, 9:30-11:00**

**Held at First Connections in Acton begins week of 9/11, ends week of 12/11**

**Social and Emotional Skills Playgroup for Preschoolers**

This playgroup will usethe Mass. Early Learning Standards and approaches to play and learning for social and emotional development. The group will include free play, a weekly learning activity, snack time, story and circle time. On October 17 there will be a 1-hr.parent education presentation by an Emerson Hospital speech therapist on Language Articulation. Please bring a snack and inform us during registration if your child has an anaphylactic food allergy.

**Appropriate for 2 and 3 Year Olds 9/12-12/12**

**Held at St. Marks Preschool in Westford Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00**

**Preschooler Outdoor Explorations Group**

With cooler weather and all the Fall changes, we’ll be heading outside to explore nature trails so we can learn about what is happening in the ponds, fields and woods around us. We’ll read a different book each week and allow the children to talk about what they may have discovered in their own back yards during the week. The places we will be walking are not stroller-friendly, but babies are welcome if they are worn in a carrier/sling/backpack. **Wait list open.**

**Appropriate for ages 3 thru 5 Fridays, 2:00-3:00**

**Held on Conservation Land in Maynard/Lincoln (indoors in Acton if rain) 9/15-12/8 (not 11/24)**

**Non-facilitated, free playgroup open to any Spanish-speaking family:**

**Do you and your children speak Spanish at home?** Would you like to get together with other families and their young children once a month? Our Sing & Play in Spanish group facilitator is currently spending several months in Columbia, but the already-established group would like to keep meeting until she returns in January. Please register in order to receive a monthly reminder or weather-related reschedule dates.

**Held at First Connections in Acton Fridays, 1:30-3:00 p.m.**

**Appropriate for Ages 1 thru 8 Sept. 22, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, Dec. 15**