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**New playgroups begin the week of January 8. Registration is required for all groups by emailing** lmatthews@jri.org. No fees. Each child 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.

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. Open to parents residing in any town. This group is for babies who are 3-9 months, and those 10-11 months who are not actively crawling yet. Limited to 12.

**Appropriate for ages 3-11 Months 1/12-3/29**

**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.***

**Young Toddler Literacy 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. This program will utilize a book-bag borrowing program on a weekly basis. Limited to 14.

**Appropriate for ages 10-20 months who are actively crawling or walking 1/10-3/28**

**Held at First Parish Church, Bedford Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30**

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

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 will be included, so don’t wear your best clothes! Reading Rockets handouts will help continue learning at home. Limited to12.

**Appropriate for Ages 12-23 months who are independently walking 1/12-3/23**

**Held at Village Nursery School in Harvard Fridays, 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. 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**

**Held at First Connections in Acton Wednesdays, 9:30-11:00 beginning January 10**

**Social and Emotional Skills Playgroup**

This playgroup will use the 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. Please bring a snack and inform us during registration if your child has an anaphylactic food allergy. Infant siblings in carriers welcome.

**Appropriate for 2 and 3 Year Olds 1/9-3/27**

**Held at Concord Carousel Preschool FULL Tuesdays, 10:00-11:30**

**Held at First Connections in Acton Mondays, 10:00-11:30**

**Preschooler STEAM Playgroup**

STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. We will explore materials and activities in these areas of learning, encouraging children to try new things and learn through exploration and play. Themes will be from EEC’s Resources for Early Learning: STEM. Some activities may be messy, so be sure not to wear your nicest clothes!

**Appropriate for ages 3 thru 5 1/9-3/27**

**Held at St. Mark’s Preschool in Westford Tuesdays, 1:30-2:30**

**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 will be returning from Columbia in February, but the already-established group will continue meeting with Belkys until that time. Please register in order to receive a monthly reminder or weather-related reschedule dates (lmatthews@jri.org).

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

**Appropriate for Ages 1 thru 8 Jan 19, Feb\_\_\_, March \_\_\_**