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**New playgroups begin the week of April 23. 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 Begins April 26**

**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! Reading Rockets handouts will help continue learning at home. 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 Begins April 25**

**Held at First Connections, Acton Wednesdays, 10:00-11:00**

**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 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 Begins May 4**

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

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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 Begins April 23**

**Held at First Connections in Acton Mondays, 9:30-11:00**

**Sibling Playgroup for Ages 2-5 (younger babies welcome)**

A playgroup for siblings where we will explore art, sensory, STEM and literacy activities. We will have free play time as well as a circle time with songs and books. This is a great chance for children of different ages to play together and learn from one another. Reading Rockets handouts help continue learning at home.

**Held at First Parish Church in Bedford Begins April 25**

 **Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30**

**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**

**Held at Concord Carousel Preschool Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00**

**Held at a Westford Preschool Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00**

**Preschooler Nature Playgroup**

Spring brings with it many changes so we’re heading outside to explore nature trails, the river and woods. We’ll read a different book each week and children will be encouraged to talk about any discoveries they’ve made during the week in their own back yards. We will be exploring a new conservation area – Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge. We will be using the Sudbury entrance this time where there is a great hands-on visitor’s learning center and plenty of parking. Babies are welcome in a carrier/sling/backpack. Some areas are stroller-friendly, but to get close to the water and explore the trails we may encounter places where strollers cannot maneuver.

**Appropriate for ages 3 thru 5 Begins May 4**

**Held at 680 Hudson Road, Sudbury Fridays, 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 is a Montessori teacher from Venezuela who recently returned from Columbia. Please register in order to receive a monthly reminder or weather-related reschedule dates (lmatthews@jri.org).

**Meets at Gleason Library, Carlisle Fridays, 1:30-3:00**

**Appropriate for Ages 1 thru 8 April 13, May 4, 18, June 1**