

OCTOBER 2022

Ready. Set. Grow!

CAMBRIDGE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
NEWSLETTER



CAMBRIDGE
Office of Early Childhood

OUR MISSION:

The mission of the Cambridge Office of Early Childhood is to **connect** the city's early childhood ecosystem, **align** early childhood services and information, and **advocate** for and **advance** the needs of all young children, their families, and the early childhood workforce.

A Letter From Our Executive Director



Dear Cambridge Early Childhood Community,

Dear Early Childhood Community,

Happy October! It is one of my favorite months - as the leaves begin to change, the air becomes crisper, and we become settled into our back-to-school routines. As we shared last month, this summer we began a rebranding of our work; transitioning from the Birth to 3rd Grade Partnership to the Cambridge Office of Early Childhood. This transition comes with a soon to be released new website (www.earlychildhoodcambridge.com will be going live in early October)!

The website will provide us with the tools and a greater platform with which to engage our early childhood community; with information for families, educators, and the broader community laid out in a way that is easy to navigate. As we aim to reach and engage a broader cross-section of our early childhood community, we are planning several engagement opportunities in the coming weeks for directors, family child care providers, our school-based colleagues, collaborating organizations, and families. It is our intent that these opportunities to connect will create a space for those we serve to have a voice in the future direction of our early childhood work in Cambridge. Stay tuned!

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Grant'.

**Dr. Lisa Grant, Executive Director
Cambridge Office of Early Childhood**



YOM KIPPUR OCTOBER 4-5, 2022

Yom Kippur is the holiest day in Judaism and Samaritanism. It occurs annually on the 10th of Tishrei, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar. Primarily centred on atonement and repentance, the day's observances consist of full fasting and ascetic behaviour accompanied by intensive prayer as well as sin confessions.



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY OCTOBER 10, 2022

Indigenous Peoples' Day honors the past, present, and futures of Native peoples throughout the US. The holiday recognizes the legacy and impact of colonialism on Native communities, and it also celebrates the cultures, contributions, and resilience of contemporary Native peoples.



HALLOWEEN OCTOBER 31, 2022

The English word 'Halloween' comes from "All Hallows' Eve", being the evening before the Christian holy days of All Hallows' Day (All Saints' Day) on 1 November and All Souls' Day on 2 November.

Halloween's origins can be traced back to the ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain, which was held on November 1 in contemporary calendars. It was believed that on that day, the souls of the dead returned to their homes, so people dressed in costumes and lit bonfires to ward off spirits.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



Staff Culture In The Classroom



Use food to bring staff stories and culture alive in the classroom! Embrace and celebrate your team's diverse background and allow children to experience foods in a new way. Ask team members to choose a food from their heritage or country of origin, then tell a story about it while taste testing that food with the children. Using images, books, and storytelling makes the experience immersive.

Bringing staff background and culture into the classroom makes the experience meaningful and exciting for all. Include family and caregivers by sending foods home or highlighting the experience in a newsletter or email. The possibilities are as endless as they are joyous!

Contact Rachael Cross, public health nutritionist, at rcross@challiance.org with questions or interest in this or other healthy eating active living projects.



Updates For The Field



The Center for Families October Newsletter is now available!

Inside you'll find information about a wide variety of resources and programs...from Cambridge Dads to Mindfulness Mondays to free resource bags for families and more.

To read the October
Newsletter click [HERE!](#)

Community of Practice for Cambridge/Somerville Home Visiting and Family Support Program Leaders

Cambridge Office of Early Childhood (Formerly The B3 Partnership) is hosting a Community of Practice (CoP) for Home Visiting and Family Support Program Leaders.

We know that peer support goes a long way to helping people feel successful and connected. Program supervisors and senior staff have been particularly burdened supporting staff during this time. B3 hosted a successful group last year and we found that this type of support was very effective for program leaders as they navigate these stressful times.

Goals:

- Connect with other local program leaders, and supervisors
- Share strategies to support staff and families
- Mutual support around dilemmas leaders are facing
- Reinforce the importance of self care for managers and for staff
- Share best practices in home visiting and family support
- Provide forum for discussing changing program guidelines

**Facilitator - COEC Home Visiting Consultant,
Megan Postal**

Details:

Frequency: Meets for 1.5 hours, once a month

Duration: October - April/May

Date/Time: TBD

To register email Megan Postal

meganpostal@gmail.com. Please include:

- Your first and last name
- Which agency you work for

Community of Practice for Cambridge/Somerville Home Visitors and Family Support Professionals



Cambridge Office of Early Childhood (Formerly The B-3 Partnership) is offering a Community of Practice for home visitors and those that do family support. CoPs connect colleagues from other programs with one another and facilitate peer discussions and support. Continuing education hours are available.

Goals:

- Get to know colleagues from other programs
- Share current practices/ways of working
- Get ideas for ways to improve your practice
- Get ideas to share with coworkers
- Feel energized about providing your program

Facilitator: COEC Home Visiting Consultant, Megan Postal

Details:

Frequency: Meets for 1.5 hours, once a month

Duration: October - April/May

Date: 4th Tuesday of every month

Time: 9:30-11:00AM

Location: On Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/4713913661>

If you are interested and this time does not work for you, please email me.

To register email Megan Postal
meganpostal@gmail.com. Please include:

- Your first and last name
- Which agency you work for
- Your supervisor's name and email



Department of Early Education & Care News



The Department of Early
Care & Education's next
board meeting will be held
on:

**Tuesday, October 11, 2022
1:00-4:00 PM**

**EEC Central Office
50 Milk Street, 5th Floor
Boston, MA**

You can watch the meeting
live on the Department's
YouTube Channel [here](#).



MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Early Education and Care

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

OCTOBER

Happiness in the "Baby Room": Supporting the Well-Being of Infant-Toddler Care Professionals

Thursday, October 6, 2022

2:00pm-3:30pm

Sponsored by Childcare Education Institute
Presenter: Mary Benson McMullen, Ph.D., Professor of
Early Childhood Education, Indiana University

This webinar will address the importance of happiness and well-being in high quality infant-toddler care and education (ITCE) and how you may support this in your programs.

Join this session to:

- Consider well-being and learn about how its 9 elements support overall well-being for children and infant-toddler care professionals.
- Identify 4 stages of the birth-to-three period and learn to support the well-being and brain development of children at each stage.
- Understand how a lack of well-being in ITCE professionals may result in dissatisfaction and unhappiness, diminish their capacity to care appropriately and sensitively, and increase the risk they will leave their positions or the field as a whole. Make an action plan to support the well-being of ITCE professionals by addressing 3 key needs and motivations: (1) community belonging; (2) safety and security; and (3) professional identity.

You can earn .2 CEUs for each webinar. The cost is \$15 paid to University of Oklahoma online when you apply. Learn more here: [Continuing Education Units \(CEUs\) from University of Oklahoma](#)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Loving the Skin You Are In: Facts on Race & Disability in Early Childhood Programs

Thursday, October 13, 2022

2:00pm-3:30pm

Produced in partnership with Equity Research Action Coalition at UNC Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute

Presenter: Iheoma U. Iruka, Ph.D., Research Professor & Fellow, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Our country is still reeling from the twin pandemics – coronavirus and racial reckoning. Furthermore, these dual pandemics have significantly impacted children with disabilities, especially Black and Brown children. In this paradigm-shifting webinar Dr. Iheoma Iruka will help you examine the historical and contemporary impact of racism on early intervention and special education access, services, and outcomes. You will learn to incorporate an intersectionality lens that examines equity through a race and ability equity lens to dismantle racism and other systemic barriers and ensure equitable opportunities.

Join this webinar to:

- Understand racial disparities in early intervention identification/special education and support
- Examine the importance of intersectionality when examining issues of race, poverty, and ability
- Identify approaches to address disparities in early intervention/special education
- You can earn .2 CEUs for each webinar. The cost is \$15 paid to University of Oklahoma online when you apply. Learn more here: [Continuing Education Units \(CEUs\) from University of Oklahoma](#)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities (cont.)

OCTOBER (cont.)



Race and Education | In Living Color: Providing Support Services for LGBTQ+ Students

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

2:00pm

Sponsored by The Hunt Institute

As this installment of our series takes place around National Coming Out Day, we will discuss how important support resources are imperative to LGBTQ+ students' sense of belonging and creating communities where they feel supported and empowered. In this webinar, we will speak to higher education practitioners and community leaders on how college campuses and the surrounding community can be inclusive and provide adequate support to LGBTQ+ students.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Screening Bilingual Language Development for English-Spanish Speaking Preschoolers

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

2:00pm-3:30pm

Sponsored by Brookes Publishing

Presenters: Aquiles Iglesias, Ph.D., Jill de Villiers, Ph.D. and Roberta Michnick Golinkoff, Ph.D.

Language is an important developmental gateway for all young children, especially dual language learners. In this webinar, language experts Aquiles Iglesias, Ph.D., Jill de Villiers, Ph.D., and Roberta Michnick Golinkoff, Ph.D., will highlight the importance of monitoring the language skills of English-Spanish bilingual preschoolers and providing needed support early. They'll share best practices for screening bilingual preschoolers, including what to measure, when to screen, and how to screen. Available screening tools will be discussed, including the new Quick Interactive Language Screener: English-Spanish (QUILS: ES).

Join this webinar to:

- Review why language skills are so important for school success
- Understand how language development differs for English-Spanish bilingual speakers
- Understand best practices for screening the language development of bilingual preschoolers
- Explore tool options for screening English-Spanish bilingual preschoolers
- You can earn .2 CEUs for each webinar. The cost is \$15 paid to University of Oklahoma online when you apply. Learn more here: [Continuing Education Units \(CEUs\) from University of Oklahoma](#)

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Early Childhood Educators: Do you want to advance your career by getting your Child Development Associate (CDA) credential?

Apply For A Scholarship To Earn Your CDA Online with Teachstone!®

***Program Runs:
OCTOBER 2022 – APRIL 2023***

Classes and support to pass your Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™ exam

The CDA Credential:

- Demonstrates your knowledge of early childhood development
- Enhances your resume and qualifies you for more, better-paying job opportunities
- Increases confidence and trust between you, your employer, and families

The Program Includes:

- 3 free online courses, 8 weeks each, covering skills required to work with young children
- All books and materials
- Ongoing support from an Education Coach
- Preparation to take the CDA exam and complete the verification visit after course completion

Please scan QR code below for the application to this program.



School Readiness Working Group



The Cambridge Office of Early Childhood will be convening teachers, directors, and community partners to form a School Readiness Working Group this Fall.

The work will center around creating a shared definitions of School Readiness and revisiting our current practices in Cambridge. More information is coming soon.

If you would like to be part of this group, please email Liz Barlock, School Readiness Manager at ebarlock@cpsd.us

VaxAbilities

COVID Vaccine events for children and adults with disabilities and sensory support needs

Wednesday, October 19, 4:00pm - 7:00pm
Reservoir Church, Cambridge, MA

COVID Vaccines for kids and adults, boosters too
Flu shots and nasal spray

Schedule an appointment:
www.VaxAbilities.com






Free
books &
giveaways!




LET'S COUNT & EXPLORE!

A 2-PART WORKSHOP ABOUT MATH AND SCIENCE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

FOR CAMBRIDGE PARENTS WITH CHILDREN 1-4 YRS OLD



Light dinner &
limited child care
available.



Wednesdays
10/19 & 10/26
6:15-8:00 pm



Citywide Senior Center,
806 Mass Ave, Cambridge

To Register: Email
jcabezas@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-9169



The Center for Families is funded by the City of Cambridge, the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (DEEC), Children's Trust, Cambridge Public Schools, and the Cambridge Health Alliance. Let's Talk/Agenda for Children Literacy Initiative is funded by Cambridge Public Health Department and City of Cambridge.



JOIN US

STEAM

**In The
Early Childhood
Classroom**



**4-SESSION WORKSHOP
SERIES**

OCT 26 | NOV 2 | NOV 9 | NOV 16

6:30-8:30 PM

LOCATIONS TBD

**Workshops are designed for
teachers working with children age
3-6 years old in classroom settings
and after school programs.**

- ☆ Educators will receive a stipend for attending all 4 sessions.
- ☆ All sessions will be in person.
- ☆ Dinner will be provided.



STEAM Initiative
CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE

Office of Early Childhood
(formerly Birth to 3rd Grade Partnership)



**SIGN UP HERE OR
SCAN THE QR CODE!**

We will confirm your spot via email.

**Contact Barb MacEachern (bmaceachern@cambridgema.gov) or
Liz Barlock (ebarlock@cpsd.us) if you have any questions.**

Cambridge Office of Early Childhood Team

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The Cambridge Office of Early Childhood is a collaboration supported by the City of Cambridge and Cambridge Public Schools.

