



day of play

family festival

Preparing young children for future success begins with play today!

www.worcesterdayofplay.org



PROGRAM BOOK

Travel Around Day of Play!



TRAVEL AROUND DAY OF PLAY!

Explore all of the different play areas today! Collect stamps when you visit an activity in each play area. Every child that fills their passport (gets play areas stamped) receives a prize. Take your completed passport to the Information Tents to claim your prize!

CREATIVE ART PLAY



ACTIVE PLAY



CONSTRUCTION PLAY



READING PLAY



HEALTH & WELLNESS PLAY



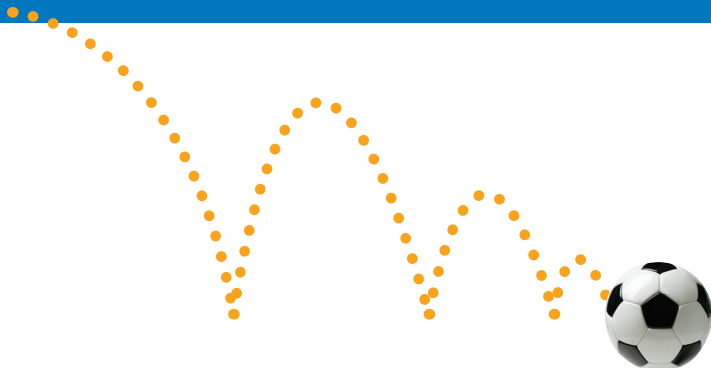
STEM PLAY



MINDFULNESS PLAY



Welcome to the Day of Play



We hope that you and your family enjoy this event where you will engage in activities that link the joy of playing to the joy of learning.

Young children learn the essential skills they will need to become successful as adults through play. Young children learn the essential skills they will need to become successful as adults through play. Building block towers develops skills in architecture and engineering. Finger painting develops an understanding of our senses, color and art. Playing hop-scotch develops number recognition and early math skills. Playing tag develops social and team development skills. Playing outdoors develops an understanding of science and nature.

Today's research shows that children develop imagination, critical thinking skills and crucial problem solving skills through play. So today, enjoy the seven play areas and main stage performances. Participate in the activities that are thoughtfully designed to experience the real power of fun and games for learning.

Brought to you by your friends at Edward Street!

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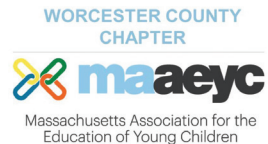
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EDWARD STREET STAFF

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Eve Gilmore

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Toni Ostrow

Executive Admin.

Where is everything?

There are eight play areas spread out around Elm Park. Each area consists of exciting opportunities for children to explore and learn while having fun!



Where is everything?

PLAY AREAS

- 1 Main Stage / Performances
- 2 Science, Technology, Engineering & Math Play (STEM)
- 3 Creative Arts Play
- 4 Construction Play
- 5 Active Play
- 6 Reading Play
- 7 Health & Wellness orange
- 8 Mindfulness

AMENITIES

-  First Aid
-  Bathrooms
-  Parking
-  Information Tent, Programs and Giveaways



Construction Play



What do children learn from construction play?

Construction play requires dexterity and promotes strength in children's fingers and hands, and improves their eye-hand coordination.

Children's vocabulary increases as they describe sizes, shapes and colors. They also increase their math skills by sorting objects by shape and color.

Because blocks encourage children to create their own designs, their imaginations are fired and their brains are built.

Activities

11:00AM – 3:30PM Construction Junction

Build towers, make a fort, design a rocket ship... You are limited only by your imagination as you build with multi-sized blocks and recyclables at the Construction Junction.

11:00AM – 3:30PM Little Ones Neighborhood

Enjoy a tot-sized neighborhood. Little ones can build and explore their neighborhood with just-the-right-size blocks and streets.



11:00PM – 3:30PM Build with Home Depot

Join staff from Home Depot to build a small project. Find just the right tool to get the job done!



11:00AM – 3:30PM Safety First!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to sit inside a police car or fire truck? Get up front and personal while you meet Police officers and Firefighters in person as they let you explore their vehicles.

Active Play

What do children learn from active play?

Active physical play allows children to use their energy, gives children the chance to develop gross and fine motor skills, to learn new things, and socialize.

Physical play also benefits a child's health and helps prevent childhood obesity.

Physical play helps a child to develop connections between the nerve cells and the brain. The ideal physical play incorporates play with social interactions and problem solving.

Activities

11:00 – 3:30PM Soccer Clinic

Do you play soccer? Do you want to learn? Join the fun. Learn how to dribble, control and kick the ball. Maybe you can score a goal!



11:00AM – 3:30PM Daniel's Neighborhood Challenge

Follow Daniel's walk through the Day of Play Neighborhood. Collect mail, walk the baby in the stroller, drive the city bus, make a birthday cake, and more. Can you do all the challenges? Can you do it with a friend?



12:00PM – 1:00PM Meet Jake the Lion (Worcester Bravehearts)

Come by the Active Play Area to shake Jake's paw and snap a photo.



11:00AM -3:30PM Imagination Playground

Using Imagination Playground blocks, kids build a new world every day. They make objects like animals, rocket ships, and robots. They make imaginary places like houses, factories, and cities. They make new dramatic scenarios, settings, and games to play. Most important, they make the rules. Because Imagination Playground is child-directed and open-ended, it encourages self-expression through deep, joyful play. Equipment provided by the Worcester Family Partnership!

Live Performances

11:00AM – 12:00PM Mister Vic – Sing, Dance and Play!

Families and their young children are invited to join Mister Vic for an interactive music performance. Bring your voices and dancing feet and join him for singing, dancing and instrument play.



12:00PM – 12:45PM Chuck & Mud

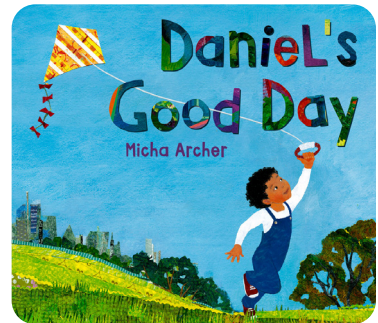
Chuck & Mud and Peter Allard invite you to come sing along to songs you know and new songs, too! We'll have you laughing and dancing in the grass – music is good for you!

12:00PM – 3:00PM Corey Scott – Rat Catcher Extraordinaire!

Corey Scott – the Rat Catcher Extraordinaire – will take you on a delightfully zany interactive adventure as he roams around the park. He really is the Pied Piper!

1:00PM – 1:30PM Community Read Along – Daniel's Good Day

Come to our Community Read Along with Worcester Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Rachel Monárrez on the Main Stage where we will be reading the festival book, Daniel's Good Day by Micha Archer. Follow along as "Daniel" (Will Sheerin an actor from Hanover Theatre) helps re-enact his good day!





1:30PM– 2:30PM Who loves a parade? South High Marching Band

Join the award winning South High Community School band and march with them as they parade around the park! Following their performance you will have a chance to talk to the musicians as they show you how their instruments work.

2:00PM – 2:30PM Janoah...any good jokes?

Join Janoah on the Main Stage for this exciting juggling show with props that will amaze all ages. Earlier, you can look for Jonoah riding through the park on a unicycle juggling along!

2:40PM – 3:15PM Hip Swayers – This Sway to Play!

The Hip Swayers perform “This Sway to Play”, a musical program of familiar, fun songs that encourage playful engagement with the Day of Play community! - after the concert try out the various rock band instruments for yourselves - hit drums, strum guitars and sing into microphones - take home a kazoo or shaker and discover the natural ‘music maker’ inside you! This program is supported in part by a grant from the Worcester Arts Council, which was made possible with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding from the City of Worcester.

3:30PM – 4:00 PM Southeast Asian Lion Dancers

Come to the Main Stage for a performance of the Lion Dancers by the South East Asian Coalition. Then become part of the celebration as the Lions lead a parade around the park!

Science, Technology, Engineering

What do children learn from STEM play?

To establish and maintain a diverse, robust and dynamic pipeline of future STEM professionals who are globally competitive it is necessary to nurture students' innate curiosity at a young age and spark student interest and excitement in STEM subjects through authentic, experiential learning beginning in early childhood...

~Massachusetts Plan for Excellence in STEM Education

Activities

11:00AM – 3:30PM Math Play

Explore fun family math games that will open up the world of mathematics to your children. Young children love exploring the world in mathematical ways from counting and sorting objects, to noticing patterns, and dividing a treat fairly among friends. Find out ways you can support their natural curiosity and wonder. Brought to you by Young Mathematicians of Worcester

11:00AM – 3:30PM Terrific Trees

Join staff from the New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill to explore the terrific trees in our state through hands-on activities and science investigations. Make your own nature journal to capture what you see in the park and take it on your future adventures.

11:00AM – 3:30PM Bird Beak Challenge

Take the Bird Beak Challenge! Using a variety of kitchen tools can you figure out which tool works the best to pick up your "bird food"? Rotate through several stations trying out different tools for different types of food. Which tool works best? Can you match the bird species to its food and its beak? Brought to you by your friends at Mass Audubon Broadmeadow Brook.



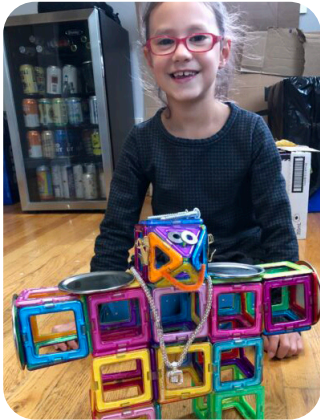
ering & Math (STEM)

11:00 AM – 3:30 PM Swing into Motion

Families come SWING by Worcester Child Development Head Start's STEAM station to have fun exploring motion and movement. Families can explore gravity with a variety of pendulums that have unique movements and take part in exciting motion and movement activities.

11:00AM – 3:30PM Light and Shadows

Where did the light go? Why does my shadow change? Come investigate with light to see how it can change your shadow and interact with different materials. Hosted by WPS Office of Curriculum & Professional Learning, Science.



11:00AM – 3:30PM Robots, Magnet Play and More!

Program a robot or learn about the cool things magnets can do. Come explore STEM activities with Girls Inc. of Worcester!

11:00AM – 3:30PM Gardening Story Circle by Regional Environmental Council

Join the REC as we gather for a garden themed story circle and a free apple. Stop by and get information about SNAP/HIP/EBT and how to use it at our Farmer's Markets!



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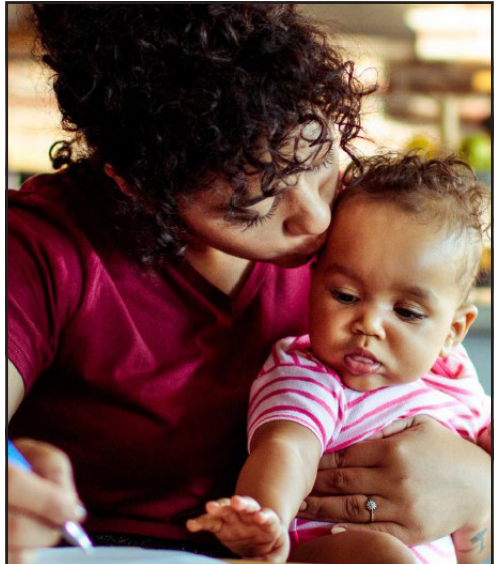
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— Right there with you —

Reading Play

What do children learn from reading play?

Early literacy skills are the foundation of all learning. Third grade reading proficiency is a critical benchmark. Until grade three children learn to read. After grade three children read to learn.

Reading to your child encourages a love of learning. Making reading at bedtime a routine makes bedtime a positive experience for children and parents.

Activities

11:00AM– 3:30PM Reading & Creating with Jumpstart

Take a break from the action and join Corps members from Jumpstart for some reading fun & create a bookmark to take home.

11:00AM – 1:00PM & 2:00PM – 4:00PM Come Meet Libby – Worcester's Mobile Library!

Come on board Libby, the mobile library, and get your free Worcester Public Library card. We have books and movies for all ages and interests!



11:00AM – 3:30PM Fingerprint Neighborhoods – Ed Emberly Style

Stop by the Reading Area to design your own fingerprint neighborhood and characters. Be inspired by designs from Ed Emberly's fingerprint art. All you need is your imagination! Who would you meet in your neighborhood, just like Daniel in Daniel's Good Day? Come design your own fingerprint neighborhood.



11:00 AM– 3:30 PM Alphabet Rocks Construction Site

Beep, beep. Word construction underway! Join us in the alphabet rock pits as we move letters around to construct words. Use small construction vehicles to transform our letter rock quarry into a busy construction site.

11:00AM – 3:30PM Go Fish Spelling!

Join staff from the Division of Youth Opportunities to catch letters and make words. Fish solo or join the fishing derby and compete with another friend or family member.



11:00AM – 3:30PM Reading Stories & Folk Tales

Stop by the Reading Stage to hear stories in many different languages. Listen to our festival book, *Daniel's Good Day*, in several languages including Arabic and Spanish. Audience members can even participate as a reader if they choose.

11:00AM – 3:30 PM Books & Crafts and More!

Come join ArtReach to find a great book to take home. Explore some crafts and select some special art kits to take home to complete.

Creative Arts Play

What do children learn from creative arts play?

Children of all ages delight in expressing their ideas through sounds, textures, colors, and shapes. Creativity in children can be developed by engaging them in activities that enable them to share their ideas, thoughts and feelings.

The creative arts– painting, sculpture and drawing–are a crucial part of childhood. Not only do the arts allow children to express themselves, but creative activity can enhance development of children’s skills in literacy, science, math, social studies, and more.

Activities

11:00AM – 3:30PM Golf Ball Painting

Roll your way to art! Children will enjoy moving a box top with paint and golf balls to create art. Notice patterns, tracking marks and color changes. Remove the paper and take your art work to go! Brought to you by Quinsigamond Community College Early Childhood Education Student Club.



11:00AM – 3:30PM Kids Handprint Tapestry

Worcester is all hands in Together for Kids. Leave your tiny fingerprints as you explore and make some memories. Together for Kids Coalition will save these prints to remember our little ones before they were big.



12:20PM– 1:00PM African Community Education Drummers

ACE students bring the rhythms of Africa to Worcester and show you how to drum too!

11:00 AM– 3:30 PM Color Mixing and Wood Painting

Show your artistic skills with the Worcester Family Resource Center's wood painting activity. Mix paints to create your favorite colors all ages welcome! FRC staff will be available to connect families to available community resources.

11:00AM – 3:30PM Chalk Art

Join studio art faculty from the Worcester Art Museum in creating a large chalk drawing for the day!



3:00PM – 3:45PM Crocodile River Music Workshop

Crocodile River Music brings a fully interactive and participatory workshop in West African Dance and Music. Students will learn and practice steps from traditional West African dances, while listening to live musical accompaniment provided by members of the CRM team. This high-energy experience is engaging and educational for students of all ages, backgrounds and capabilities.

Health & Wellness

What do children learn from health & wellness?

In raising healthy children, it's not enough to just focus on the physical aspect of health. To be truly healthy, a child's emotional health must be nurtured and strengthened. Developing a mental attitude of wellness is also essential. By adopting an attitude of wellness, we will come to believe that being well is a natural, normal state. By developing a wellness attitude in our children, they will learn that they have control over their own body and that leads to health and happiness.

Activities

11:00AM – 3:30PM Happy Teeth!

What makes a tooth happy? Brushing, flossing, and eating the right foods. Come play some games about what makes teeth smile. Student from QQC's Dental Hygiene program will be on hand to help children learn about keeping their teeth healthy and children will leave with a goody bag for their teeth!



11:00AM – 3:30PM First Aid Kit Game

What goes in a first aid kit? Come play a game to test your first aid knowledge. Children can explore how to make a first aid kit at home to keep the family healthy and ready for life's little bumps, bug bites and bruises.

11:00AM – 3:30PM Hula Hoop & Health

Join staff from the Latino Education Initiative to have fun learning about health and nutrition. Try out hula hooping and sway your way to a healthful day!



11:00AM – 3:30PM Baby Doll Clinic

The Baby Doll Clinic is meant to be an interactive experience for children to learn about basic health and wellness with activities and hands on play as “nurse” or “doctor”. Staff from the YWCA of Central MA will be assisting and teaching children and families how to care for their baby dolls and beloved stuffed animals.



11:00AM – 3:30PM Healthy Good Day Paper Chain

How long can we make the paper chain? Come add your ideas about what makes a healthy good day! Add a link and watch the chain grow all day long. Can we make it stretch across Elm Park?

11:00AM – 3:30PM Health Hearts – Health & Fitness Station

Have you ever wondered how the human heart looks like from INSIDE? Do you want to explore a first aid kit? When and how to use it? Come join us for some health and fitness activities. Sponsored by the Worcester Islamic Center.

11:00AM – 3:30PM Spin the Wellness Wheel

Come learn about the 5210 program. What is 5210? Health children should daily eat 5 Fruits and Vegetables, 2 hours of screen time, 1 hour of active play, and 0 sweetened beverages. Try your luck with the Healthy Spinning Wheel and see where you will land? Will you be doing a cartwheel? Jump rope? Or answer a fun 5210 question? Answer correctly or complete a task for a special prize.

Mindfulness

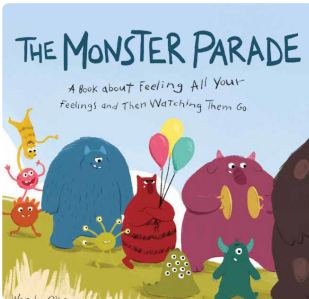
What do children learn from mindfulness?

Building mindful practices into your family routine is healthy for you and your child. Simple techniques like breathing, grounded feet, and building awareness of inner and outer spaces all support children's healthy development. Mindfulness brings calm and helps children build skills such as focus, attention, self-control, compassion, and resilience.

Activities

1:30 – 2:30 Yoga Play for Little Ones

A 20-30 minute session of fun, easy, enjoyable guided playful movements, breath awareness and quiet centering thru story telling.



11:00AM – 3:30PM Monster Puppets

Come enjoy a story about emotions – The Monster Parade – and make your own paper bag monster. Have fun exploring different emotions and learn ways to take care of the emotions you may have.

11:00AM – 3:30PM Rock Your Monster Emotions

Decorate your own rock with emotions or feelings. Take it with you to remind you that all feelings are welcome and natural; we all have them!

All day, come sit a spell and enjoy some quiet time and relax.



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