



# BIRTH TO THREE FAMILY CENTER

15 Market St., Ipswich, MA 01938  
Email: [birthto3@comcast.net](mailto:birthto3@comcast.net)  
[www.birthtothreeipswich.org](http://www.birthtothreeipswich.org)

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Telephone:  
978-412-0123

Fax:  
978-412-8268

## COORDINATOR'S CORNER



"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies." \*Mother Theresa

Diaper rash. In the end, it was a report that said because of the sinking economy, diaper rash was on the rise. That was the final straw, the one that inspired me to spend a day with the diverse (and, yes, often *motley*) group of protestors occupying Dewey Square in Boston. I hoped my presence there that one day would somehow improve the future bottom line for 99% of babies.

**"American parents spend \$1,500 per baby on diapering each year, changing a diaper 6.3 times in a day, according to Procter & Gamble. In a recession, unfortunately, diapering is one of the first costs that households cut. Diaper rationing is showing up in rising sales of diaper rash cream -- even in a period when the baby population decreased."**

I'll admit to spending a fair amount of my misspent youth at demonstrations and walking picket lines, from universities, to the streets of the West Coast and outside of the White House. As I got older, however, it seemed to me from my reading and experiences that the best way to improve our communities was working to educate and support young children and their families. I committed myself to that choice of direction, working in daycare and preschools; advocating for families on Beacon Hill; facilitating parenting groups; and making

*(Continued on page 4)*

## ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE AT BIRTH TO 3 FOR CHILDCARE, PRESCHOOLS AND FAMILY RESOURCE PROVIDERS

At some point or another, most of our Birth to 3 families want to explore their options for daycare and/or preschools. On January 21, join us for one-stop shopping! Representatives from local preschools and daycare providers will gather at the Birth to 3 Family Center to provide families with information on their home care, childcare centers and preschools. There will also be staff members from WIC and ACTION to give information on their services. Parents will be able to meet providers and/or their staff to receive information and have their questions answered.

This event only comes once a year so mark your calendar now. No registration needed and children welcomed. Call 978-412-0123 if you need additional information.

**OPEN HOUSE  
BIRTH TO 3 FAMILY CENTER  
15 Market St., Ipswich  
Saturday, January 21  
10AM to Noon**

*More inside!*

*Playgroup themes and  
Thank Yous on Page 2*

*January & February  
Activities on Page 3*

*Rising Stars of  
Massachusetts 2012  
page 4*

BIRTH TO 3's Helping Hands:

Thank you to Crystal Vitale, Katie Hone, Joanne Lampropoulos, Andrea Norris much appreciation to the many who consistently and often anonymously give to our donation bottle at the front desk. Also, many thanks to all of you who keep spreading the word about the Birth to 3 Family Center and inviting families new to Ipswich and families with new babies to visit the center.

[Special Thanks to Sarah Player for teaching two Infant/child CPR Training classes to our families.](#)

**APPRECIATION**

On behalf of all of the families who benefit - and will benefit - from Ipswich's Birth to Three Family Center, we wish to offer our gratitude to the many generous members of our community who stepped forward in our time of extreme financial need in the last few months. In particular, we appreciate the fundraising support we've received from [The Charity Girls and Ipswich Lions Club](#). We would also like to thank [The Ipswich YMCA](#) for donating a portion of the proceeds raised during the Annual Run for the Pies on Thanksgiving Day. Thank You for your support!

**The Dinner Bell Rings**

The Ipswich Masonic Lodge, 70 Topsfield Road, hosts free Dinner Bell community meals the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 5 PM.

A consortium of local churches, businesses and service organizations sponsors the dinners.

For more information, call the Immanuel Baptist Church:  
978-356-2010, or the lodge at 978-356-9716

**What's happening in our playgroups?  
What are the themes?**

Jan 3-6 **Welcome to Play group!**  
Jan 9-13 ***Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What do you Hear?***  
We will enjoy this story by Bill Martin Jr.  
(\* We will be closed for Martin Luther King Day, January 16)

Jan 17-20 **Mittens**  
We will read the story *Three Little Kittens*

Jan 23-27 **Backyard Birds**  
We will be making snacks for the hungry birds



Jan 30-Feb 3 **Snowmen**  
The children will enjoy making their own snowman.



Feb 6-10 **Fieldtrip—Sledding at Cable Gardens**  
( Hopefully there will be snow)



Feb 13-17 **Will you be my Valentine?**  
Wear red and pink and make valentines.

**JAN-FEB 2012 at Bto3**

**REGISTRATION WEEK — Dec 27-30**

⇒ Tuesday- Friday, 9:30 AM— 1 PM.

- **To Register:**
- Call 978-412-0123 after 9:30 AM to register for groups/activities.
- **Stop by the Birth to 3 Center** (check hours)
- **Beginning Wednesday— email registrations** will be accepted in the order they are received and we'll let you know if there is space available.
- **Families who do not live or work in Ipswich** will be wait-listed and on Friday, December 30, will be notified if there is space available.

**PLAYGROUPS — 1 hour long - Need to Register**

- 0-12 Months — Tuesday 11 AM
- 12-18 Months - Wednesday 11 AM
- 18-24 Months - Thursday, 11:00 AM
- 2 Year Olds— Tuesday 9:30 AM, & with Cape Ann Early Intervention (CAEI) Friday at 11:00 AM
- 2/3 Year Olds — Thursday 9:30 AM
- CAEI Adoption/Foster Family Support Group— Wednesday at 9:30AM ( New day)
- Friday Fun Group — Friday at 9:30 AM

**OPEN PLAY:**

Mondays 9:30 - 11:00 AM (New)

Tuesdays 12:00-2:30 PM

Thursdays 12:00-2:30 PM (except Jan 7 & Feb 2)

Drop-in. No fee, but small donations always welcomed.

**Wednesday Mornings— 9:30-10:30 AM**

**Jan 25 and Feb 22: Grandparents Group**  
Grandparents with & without their grandchildren share experiences over coffee and muffins



**Dad & Me!**

Saturday Jan 7 & Feb 4 - 9:30-11:00 AM

**Followed by Open Play for All 11:00 AM to Noon**

Registration is appreciated in case of last minute or unexpected cancellations, but drop-ins are always welcomed.

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**A New Resource for Single Parents**

A new program at the Birth to Three Family Center will bring parents and their children together to play and talk. The program is open to any parent with children 0-4 years of age. We will meet the last Wednesday of every month 5:30-7:00 PM starting January 25. Please call the Birth to 3 to register at 978-412-0123

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**“Monday, Monday.....”**

Good news for all you mamas and papas. After scrimping and saving for six months, as well as aggressively fundraising, Birth to three is happy to announce that beginning in January, we will be restoring our traditional (and very popular) Monday morning Open Play.

At a meeting last month, Birth to Three's Executive Advisory Committee voted to put a portion of this year's fundraising resources into trying to rebuild parts of the program lost due to budget cuts. Many parents had voiced their desire for the return of the Monday programming.

In addition to the playtime, Dianna will be available to provide information and referral at the center, as well as at home visits. Call us with your questions - 978 412-0123.

(Continued from page 1)

music with children of all ages.

Eventually my path in education led me to Ipswich, first to Cuvilly and eventually, in 2003, to the Birth to Three Family Center. I've thought of myself primarily as a *teacher* for the longest time, but with each passing year here, I'm coming to understand that I am a very fortunate *student* as well.

My colleagues and the caregivers and the children we work with continue to provide me with insight and inspiration. I'm very grateful for the many lessons offered by working with all of our families. This feeling is further strengthened as I observe the resilience of so many of you making your way through these very difficult times.

It was this gratitude and appreciation of your value that led me to Occupy Boston, chanting, "when something stinks, it's time for a change". I long ago realized I didn't have all (any of?) the Big Answers, but that you rarely go wrong if you try to put children first in your decision making and your actions. As Gabriela Mistral wrote a long time ago, "**Many things can wait. Children cannot. Today their bones are being formed, their blood is being made, their senses are being developed. To them we cannot say 'tomorrow'. Their name is today.**"

### Friday Fundays

We are moving Friday fundays from the afternoon to mornings in hope of being available to more participants. Each hour-long mixed age group ( 2 & 3 year olds) will offer playful parent-child explorations of different art forms, from music and movement, to painting and play dough. The group will meet on Fridays at 9:30 AM.



**Reminder:** Call us when you cannot attend a Group so...

- We won't delay the start of a playgroup or workshop waiting for you.
- People on waiting lists who would enjoy the opportunity of taking your place can be contacted.
- Call 978-412-0123

Adoptive and Foster Family Support Group

Our newly revived Adoptive and Foster Family Group, collaboration with Cape Ann Early Intervention, is moving from Friday to Wednesday morning at 9:30 AM at the request of CAEI.

If your family is involved in adoption or foster care, please consider joining Cape Ann Early Intervention and Birth to Three with your child(ren) for a two part series combining play and conversation about the joy and challenges your family is experiencing.

Each session will begin with an opportunity for families to relax, play and enjoy a brief circle time. Following that, caregivers will be invited to our conference room for a facilitated discussion about the special issues they face. At the same time, the children will enjoy a snack and activity supervised by CAEI and B3 staff. A closing song with all participants will end each group.

Please help us spread the word too any families you may know who might benefit from this program.

**Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) Council Meeting**

February 15, 5:30-7:00 PM at the Birth to Three Family Center— New Parents Welcome

**North Shore Post Partum Depression Task Force Meetings**, January 5 & February 2, 1:00-3:00 PM at Beverly Hospital. Please join us supporting newborns and their families

**WIC/ Action**

January and February WIC hours will be Jan 17 and Feb 21 from 10AM - 3 PM. Please call 978-373-1971 Ext. 215 for an appointment.

Action, Inc. is here Mondays by appointment only.

978-282-1000



**Rising Stars of Massachusetts 2012**

In November, Governor Patrick released his education agenda, and the first item on his list was ensuring that children in Massachusetts become proficient readers by the end of third grade. The path to literacy - and reading success by third grade - begins at birth and includes high-quality early education.



The governor is now preparing his recommendations for the fiscal year 2013 budget. He needs to hear from you. Let the governor know you share his commitment to providing opportunities for success to all Massachusetts children. Urge him to prioritize investing in our "rising stars" in the FY13 budget.

You and your child can help by coming to Birth to Three to decorate paper stars and by asking families, friends and teachers to complete a support letter to the Governor or our legislators.

Last year, children across Massachusetts sent thousands of decorated "Rising Stars" to Beacon Hill urging them to preserve and protect the progress the commonwealth has made on behalf of children and families. This year, let's send more!

**NO SCHOOL IN IPSWICH**

When you hear on the radio or see on television that there is no school for the Ipswich Public Schools, our schedule will be as follows:

"No School" = ALL activities for the day and evening are cancelled. There will be NO OPEN PLAY.

"Delayed Opening" = ALL morning activities will be cancelled. The schedule for the remainder of the day will be the same.

If you're not sure, please call us at 978-412-0123 to confirm that we are open.



# Ascension Nursery School

**It's a New Year!**

**Come make new friends at Ascension Nursery School while space is still available**

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**Ascension Nursery School  
29 County Street  
978-356-1641 or [info@AscensionNurserySchool.com](mailto:info@AscensionNurserySchool.com)**

**To learn more or see photos of our facilities please visit [www.AscensionNurserySchool.com](http://www.AscensionNurserySchool.com)**



Almost that time of year again...

Once the holidays are over, Governor Patrick, the Senate and the House of Representatives will once again work to create a budget for the Commonwealth. All of Ipswich's school programs, including Birth to Three, depend greatly on the fiscal resources we receive from the state. Our elected officials will respond when enough citizens speak up in support of what's important to them. As we go into the new year, please consider contacting our legislators to encourage them to prioritize investing in our children and families.

State Senator Bruce Tarr  
State House Room 308  
Boston, MA 02133  
617-722-1600  
[BTarr@senate.state.ma.us](mailto:BTarr@senate.state.ma.us)

Representative Brad Hill  
State House Room 124  
Boston, MA 02133  
617-722-2100  
[rep.bradhill@hou.state.ma.us](mailto:rep.bradhill@hou.state.ma.us)



## **Celebrate your Child's Birthday at the Birth to Three**

- When:** Your child's next birthday!
- Who:** Your child and friends!
- What:** A large, kid-friendly place to celebrate as special day.
- Why:** Help support Birth to Three!

**\$150.00 donation is requested for use of the space.  
(Families provide their own cake and party favors.)**

**R.S.V.P: 978-412-0123**