

CAMBRIDGE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

NEWSLETTER

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CAMBRIDGE

Office of Early Childhood

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.

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



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A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DR. CHERYL OHLSON

Dear Cambridge Early Childhood Community,

In this issue, we continue our focus on behavioral health and family engagement. You'll find an article written by preschool providers from Campus Child Care (CCC) that highlights three essential elements of Tier 1 practice to support children's social-emotional development and behavior:

1. Teacher focus and availability
2. Predictable, consistent classroom routines and systems
3. Creating an orderly classroom environment

Western Avenue Children's Center has been working to effectively implement these practices and has seen how they help create environments where children experience safety, trust, and predictability. Staff have also observed meaningful positive impacts on children's behavior and overall development as a result.

Additionally, this issue includes content related to family engagement. It is well documented that effective family engagement strategies are integral to overall program quality, and that forming truly collaborative partnerships with families is key to preventing and navigating behavioral health challenges. The Massachusetts Family Engagement Coalition — with representation from eleven state offices including the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) — created the [Strengthening Partnerships](#) framework to support child-, youth-, and family-serving organizations in building meaningful and responsive relationships with families.

The Cambridge Office of Early Childhood is using this framework to guide how we support early childhood programs across the city in partnering effectively with families.

This newsletter includes more information about the framework and resources to help you explore its key principles.

As a reminder, we invite you to support our early childhood community by submitting content for this newsletter. We welcome strategies and practices you've implemented successfully, lessons learned, and helpful resources you've found or developed to share with professionals across the city.

We are especially interested in strong Tier 1 practices that support the success of all children—including those with developmental differences, those who have experienced trauma, and those demonstrating challenging behaviors—as well as Tier 2 or Tier 3 practices that provide more targeted supports for individual children. Submissions can range from a brief paragraph to about a full page. Photos and resource links are welcome. You may use this template ([link](#)) to help organize your thoughts.

If you are interested in—or considering—contributing, please complete this brief [form](#).

Warm Regards,

Cheryl Ohlson
Dr. Cheryl Ohlson

Family Engagement

The Office of Early Childhood's Framework for Family Engagement

Effective family engagement is a cornerstone of high-quality early childhood programming. In late spring 2025, the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) began a comprehensive effort to identify a family engagement framework to guide the work of our office, inform family engagement practices within CPP programs, and serve as a resource to other early childhood programs in the future.

Following an extensive review of existing family engagement frameworks—including conversations with OEC stakeholders—OEC selected [Strengthening Partnerships: A Framework for Prenatal through Young Adulthood Family Engagement](#). Developed between 2018 and 2020, this framework was created by the Massachusetts Family Engagement Coalition, a diverse group of experts from across the Commonwealth representing health, human services, education, and related sectors. Drawing on established family engagement research and practice, the Coalition sought to elevate the importance of family engagement and to create a shared roadmap for meaningfully engaging children, youth, and families across systems.



The framework opens with the following **description of family engagement:**

“Family engagement that connects families, children, youth, and practitioners at all levels is systemic (incorporating engagement strategies into all systems and services) and intentional (incorporating purposeful and deliberate engagement strategies). Effective family engagement involves connecting with families, interacting with them as equal partners, and establishing strong two-way communications channels.”

At the core of the **Strengthening Partnerships framework are five guiding principles**. Together, these principles support organizations and systems in creating a culture that values, and thrives on, family engagement:

1. Each family is unique and all families represent diverse structures
2. Acknowledging and accepting the need to engage all families is essential for successful engagement of diverse families and include recognizing the strengths that come from their diverse backgrounds
3. Building a respectful, trusting and reciprocal relationship is the shared responsibility of families, practitioners, organizations and systems
4. Families are their child's first and best advocate
5. Family engagement must be equitable: Equitable family engagement comprises intentional and meaningful engagement activities and systems for all families or groups of families irrespective of families level of or approach to engagement.

(continued on next page)

Family Engagement

The principles and elements of the Strengthening Partnerships framework will enable OEC and CPP programs to build upon existing family engagement practices. Equally important, the framework provides **guidance on strengthening staff and organizational capacity for family engagement**.

The authors emphasize the importance of this work in the following statement:

"Strengthening capacity around family engagement goes beyond providing practitioners with resources and increasing their expertise to engage families in a meaningful way, to changing mindsets and creating an organizational culture of family engagement. It involves a cultural shift from understanding family engagement as random acts of parent involvement to an intentional, ongoing, and consistent process of engaging each and every member of the family. Strengthening capacity starts with the organization's emphasis on family engagement as a fundamental priority and builds on the involvement and support of every member within the organization in family engagement activities and endeavors."

What's Next for OEC?

OEC is currently developing Quality Benchmarks, and family engagement is a central component of this work. The **Family Engagement Benchmark** is grounded in the Strengthening Partnerships framework, with the guiding principles serving as its foundation. In the coming weeks, OEC will engage stakeholders, including programs and families, to introduce the framework in greater depth. Through this engagement, **we aim to learn which elements of the framework programs most need support with and how OEC can best provide guidance, resources, and assistance**.

We look forward to exploring the Strengthening Partnerships framework together over the coming months and hearing your perspectives on family engagement needs that OEC can help address.

If you have questions, suggestions, or would like to continue the conversation about family engagement, please reach out! You can contact: Megan Postal, OEC Director of Family and Community Engagement, at mpostal@partnerof.cpsd.us.

From The Field: Resources

EDUCATOR RESOURCES



ENGAGING FAMILIES FOR BETTER EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTCOMES

Strong partnerships between early childhood programs and families are essential to promoting children's social-emotional development and minimizing challenging behavior. The "Family Engagement Strategies" tip sheet from the National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations offers practical, easy-to-implement ideas for strengthening those connections. From meaningful in-person activities like classroom celebrations, open-door policies, and volunteer opportunities, to digital communication tools — including phone calls, newsletters, social media, and parent-teacher apps — this one-page guide highlights simple ways to keep families informed, involved, and supported. Whether you're looking to share positive stories, gather parent feedback, or bridge cultural and language gaps, these strategies help create welcoming, two-way communication channels that benefit programs, educators, and families alike.

https://www.challengingbehavior.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/family_engagement_strategies.pdf

STRENGTHENING FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

This introductory video from the Family Engagement in Early Care and Education Learning Series highlights why building meaningful, respectful partnerships with families is essential to supporting young children's development and learning. It frames family engagement as a collaborative, strengths-based process where educators and caregivers work with one another — not just for one another — to set goals, share insights, and foster children's healthy growth. The series overview emphasizes relationship-based practices, culturally responsive communication, engaging diverse caregivers (including fathers), and co-creating environments where families feel welcomed, respected, and empowered in their child's early education journey. For early childhood professionals looking to deepen their engagement practices and build stronger connections between home and program, this video sets the stage for a reflective and practical learning experience.



[**Click Here for the Video: Dr. Karen Mapp Shares Advice for Educators on Family and Community Engagement Strategies**](#)

From The Field: Resources

EDUCATOR RESOURCES

STRENGTHENING PARENT/CAREGIVER ENGAGEMENT IN YOUR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

Engaged families are a cornerstone of thriving preschool and childcare settings — and this Brightwheel article highlights practical strategies educators can implement to deepen those partnerships. It begins by defining family engagement as a collaborative relationship between educators and families that supports children's learning and well-being and explains why it matters: stronger relationships, improved communication, reduced challenging behaviors, and even boosted teacher morale.

The piece offers actionable ideas for increasing participation, including honoring cultural diversity, hosting inclusive events at various times, keeping families informed through regular updates and conferences, and building meaningful school-to-home connections. It also encourages programs to measure success and gather feedback to continually refine engagement efforts.

Whether you're refreshing your family engagement plan or seeking new ways to connect with parents and caregivers, this article provides thoughtful, educator-friendly tips to help foster stronger partnerships that benefit children's development.

<https://mybrightwheel.com/blog/how-to-strengthen-parent-engagement-at-preschool-or-childcare>



In January 2026, OEC Director Mentor Christina Denis attended a specialized workshop hosted by the Minnesota Infant Mental Health Alliance. The training, "Supporting Children During Immigration Enforcement Operations," provided critical insights and support strategies for children and families. Please view the resources from this workshop listed below:

Supporting Children During Immigration Enforcement Operations Webinar

The webinar is one hour long and includes valuable, practical information for participants.

<https://macmh.org/supporting-children-during-immigration-enforcement-operations/>

Supporting Children After a Parent's Deportation or Detention

PDF Flyers translated in English, Spanish, Somali, Haitian Creole, Pashto, Dari, Portuguese, Karen, Hmong, and Ukrainian.

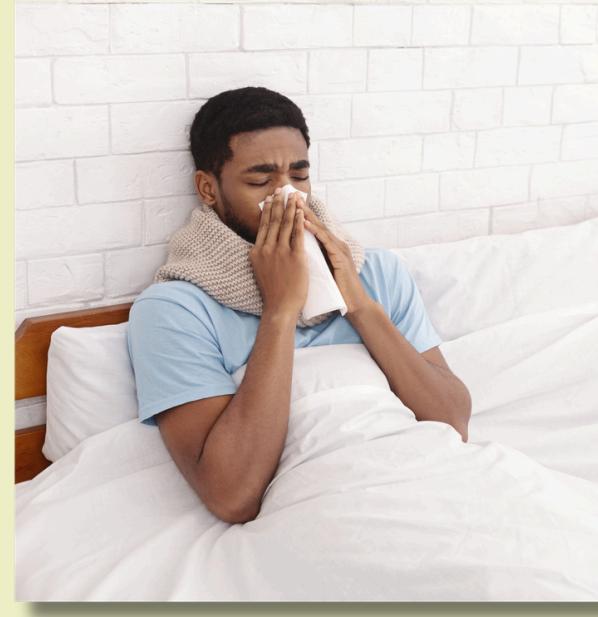
<https://macmh.org/resource/parent-deportation-stressful-frightening/>

(Click the link to download the pdf flyer.)

From The Field: Resources

H.E.A.L. CORNER: BOOSTING IMMUNITY DURING THE WINTER!

Cozy hot chocolate while playing puzzles, playing in the snow, and more fun activities make the winter season a time of fun and joy! During the colder days, however, it can be more common to get sick. While medicine and vaccines play a big role in protecting from infections, there are some lifestyle factors that can support the immune system in fighting off germs!



• Sleep:

- When we're sleeping, our bodies release different immune related compounds like white blood cells, proteins, and antibodies to repair parts of your body! Adults are recommended to sleep for 7-9 hours per night. Recommendations for children differ depending on age.

• Physical Activity:

- According to recommendations, adults are advised to participate in moderate-intensity physical activity for 150 minutes per week, and children 6-17 years old for 60 minutes per day. Physical activity supports our immune system by reducing inflammation and increasing germ-fighting compounds like cytokines and white blood cells!

• Nutrition

- Antioxidants are nutrients and other compounds that protect and heal our cells from compounds called free radicals, which increase when we are sick. Some nutrients that fall under the antioxidant category include vitamin C, vitamin D, zinc, and selenium. In addition to antioxidants, omega-3 fatty acids support in reducing inflammation in the body and protein supports our immune system by building antibodies and increasing white blood cell function!

More tips for nutrition and staying active are available on the resources page at the Cambridge Public Health Department website.

Contact Norah Ismail, Public Health Nutritionist, at nismail@cambridgepublichealth.org with questions or interest in this or other healthy eating active living projects.

Cambridge Preschool Program Updates

CAMBRIDGE
Preschool Program



The Cambridge Preschool Program

is a publicly-funded program that provides

access to free, high-quality preschool

for all Cambridge 4-year-olds and prioritized 3-year-olds.

Families apply to CPP through a single, centralized online application.

They can choose from preschool programs offered by Cambridge Public Schools (CPS), the Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP), and select community-based preschool and family childcare providers.

CPP covers the cost of the school-day, school-year portion of preschool programs.

Depending on a family's income, there may be additional costs for programs that provide full-day, full-year (including summer) preschool.

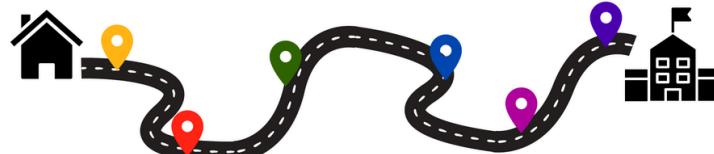
Cambridge Preschool Program Enrollment Timeline Updates

Please review the CPP enrollment timeline below for the most recent updates in the 2026-2027 application process:

- Application Window #1: October 1 – November 14, 2025
- Families who applied by the November 14th deadline received their preschool matches in January 2026.
- Families have accepted or declined their placements.
- **The Cambridge Office of Early Childhood is accepting new applications to the Cambridge Preschool Program (CPP) for enrollment in the 2026-2027 school year. Applications submitted by April 13th, 2026 will be included in the Spring 2026 match.**
- Match results will be sent to families in late April 2026.
- Families will have 2 weeks from notification to accept or decline their placement offer.
- Children will begin their first day of CPP in September 2026!

CAMBRIDGE
Preschool Program

CAMBRIDGE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM ENROLLMENT ROADMAP



1

SEARCH

Families are encouraged to explore CPP options prior to applying!

- Program Profile provides you a snapshot of our partner programs
- Families can search programs by location, hours, or transportation.

2

APPLY

Applications will be accepted through EOD (5pm EST) on 11/14/25. The CPP application consists of a series of questions to assess ELIGIBILITY, consider child and family INFORMATION, and allow families to RANK their preschool choices.

3

MATCHING

Children will be matched with a preschool program based on the information provided in the application. Children who are 4 years old prior to August 31, 2025, will receive a notification in the August 2025 newsletter regarding their preferred program, or are otherwise considered "high priority" will be prioritized in the matching process.

4

NOTIFICATION

Families will be notified of their preschool match in January 2026. Additional information will be provided closer to that time.

5

ACCEPT/DECLINE

- If a family ACCEPTS the preschool match, they then ENROLL in that program.
- If a family DECLINES the preschool match, they will have 2 weeks to respond and will need to seek a private preschool placement, if desired.

6

ENROLLMENT

CONGRATULATIONS! Families will complete the enrollment process with their preschool program provider, and children will begin their first day of the Cambridge Preschool Program in Fall 2026!

To learn more about the Cambridge Preschool Program please visit www.earlychildhoodcambridge.org/CPP

SEPTEMBER 2025

News & Notices

Save the Date!



Caring Together for Young Children & Families

**6TH ANNUAL CAMBRIDGE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD, APRIL 11-17TH**

EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE | SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH

CAMBRIDGE
Office of Early Childhood



[Click HERE to read the latest
CFF Newsletter!](#)



Inside you'll find information about a wide variety of resources and programs such as:

- Cambridge Dads
- Parent/Child Activities
- Parent support
- Free resource bags for families
- Resources & supports for families and more!

**LIKE & FOLLOW US
ON FACEBOOK!**



Like & follow the Cambridge Office of Early Childhood Facebook page so you can see early childhood updates, new resources, and helpful content we share on your favorite social media platform!

Find Us Here!

Or save the url below:
www.facebook.com/cambridgeoec

Thank you for supporting our office!

News & Notices

February 2026: At-Home Activity Calendar

Designed for Cambridge children ages 0-4, but all are welcome!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Parents, check out these ideas to try at home. The goal is to have fun!</p> <p>You can change these ideas to match your child's age or interests.</p>						
1	Talk	2	Read	3	Play	4
Help your child count their fingers and toes. Count up and down.	Take a walk and look for the first letter of your child's name.	Play a game that moves your whole body, like tag or Red Light, Green Light.	Have a family sing-along! What are your favorite songs to sing together?	Look at the clouds. Do they look like animals, shapes or something else?	Plan a pretend family trip. Where would you go and what would you do?	Read a story and act it out using stuffed animals, dolls or puppets.
8	Play	9	Sing	10	Tell Stories	11
Make a picture using 3 different colors.	Play music and stretch along to it. Count quietly as you stretch together.	Talk about some of your family traditions or create a new one.	Count out some pairs of socks. Talk about other things that come in pairs.	Cook together! Read the recipe out loud and talk about the ingredients.	Build the tallest tower you can. What shapes did you use?	Dance to the beat of a song. Stomp and clap!
15	Tell Stories	16	Talk	17	Read	18
Tell a story from your childhood.	Bring measuring cups into the bath. Practice counting and measuring.	Have a family story time where each person chooses a book to read.	Draw together! Can you make patterns in your art?	Sing a song to your child in the morning to wake them up.	Make up a story together, one sentence at a time.	Take a walk outside and listen to nature's sounds. Who or what makes noise?
22	Read	23	Play	24	Sing	25
Read a book together and look for different shapes!	Touch something sticky, like tape.	Sing a silly song in the bath.	Sing a silly song in the bath.	Take turns pretending to be different animals.	Play dress up with the clothes that are already in your house.	What household objects can become an instrument? Make music!
28	Sing					

News & Notices

Center for Families and Let's Talk

Family Playtime

For Cambridge families with children
15 months-4 years. Siblings welcome!

Saturdays

10:00-11:30am

**1/31, 2/7, 2/21,
2/28, 3/7, 3/14**

119 Windsor St.



Join us for some indoor fun! We will have toys to play with, music, and activities! Fun for the whole family.

No need to register, just come play! Questions?

Contact Marianna at (617) 349-1723 or
mperks@cambridgema.gov



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/ AFC is funded by the Cambridge Public Health Department and the City of Cambridge.

News & Notices

Artwork: Stephanie Li



FOUNDRY FESTIVAL 2026 PATHWAYS

Discover new pathways through free hands-on **activities and performances** for the whole family!



free to attend!

[CAMBRIDGEFOUNDRY.ORG/FESTIVAL](https://cambridgefoundry.org/festival)

AI AND ITS IMPACT ON OUR STUDENTS COMMUNITY CONVERSATION
Thursday, February 19th, 2026 @ 6:30 pm

Join CFCC for an informative conversation with Dr Randi Williams focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its growing role in education. As AI tools become more common in classrooms and daily life, it is important for families to understand how students are using them, the benefits they can offer, and the challenges they present.

Attend to gain valuable insight into how AI is shaping the future of education and what it means for your student's academic journey.

Join Zoom Meeting:
Please register here to receive the zoom link or scan the QR Code
Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/m7ZB7bmz495TaunL7>

✓ How students are using AI to support learning
✓ Ethical considerations and responsible use
✓ Ways caregivers can guide and support their children in an AI-driven world

Dr. Williams is a MIT research lead, tinkerer, and activist, passionate about using technology to uplift communities. She has spearheaded technology and professional development initiatives that have empowered thousands of educators, policymakers, and everyday changemakers to responsibly use AI to transform teaching and learning.







News & Notices

THE NEWTOWNE LEARNING EXCHANGE

a conference for early educators by early educators



JOIN US FOR THE 2026 EXCHANGE!

STRONG ENOUGH TO BEND: STORIES OF POWER, RESISTANCE, AND CARE

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026
8:30AM - 3:30PM
11 GARDEN ST. CAMBRIDGE, MA



scan the code
or click [here](#) to
learn more

DON'T MISS OUT!

- classroom open houses
- a powerful story forum
- interactive workshops
- breakfast & lunch included

TICKETS ON SALE!
early bird pricing
through February 15
&
special rates for
Cambridge
educators!





Human
Service
Programs

Summer Camps at DHSP!

Apply online
February 2 – March 9
through the DHSP
Summer Lottery!

In-person help available.
Dates and times on website.



The Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP) offers summer camps and programs to Cambridge children and youth in Kindergarten–8th grade.

- Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
- Choose from camp sessions between June 29–August 14 (*closed July 3*)
- Affordable cost based on family size and income.
Free for 13-year-olds!

[Locations and details →](#)



More information معلومات اكث
অধিক তথ্য 更多信息 Plus d'informations
Plis enfomasyon Mais informações Más información



[www.cambridgema.gov/
SummerCamps](http://www.cambridgema.gov/SummerCamps)

Contact DHSP with questions!
askdhsp@cambridgema.gov • 617-349-6200

Summer Camps at DHSP!

**Monday–Friday,
8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.**

Session 1 (1 week)
June 29 – July 2
(closed July 3)

Session 2 (2 weeks)
July 6 – 17

Session 3 (2 weeks)
July 20 – 31

Session 4 (2 weeks)
August 3 – 14

Apply Online!

[www.cambridgema.gov/
SummerCamps](http://www.cambridgema.gov/SummerCamps)



askdhsp@cambridgema.gov
617-349-6200



Human
Service
Programs

Camps for Current Kindergarten – 4th Graders

- Amigos Community School, 15 Upton St.
- Cambridgeport Community School, 89 Elm St.
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community School, 102 Putnam Ave.
- Fletcher Maynard Academy Community School, Cambridgeport School, 89 Elm St.
- Graham and Parks Community School, 44 Linnaean St.
- Haggerty Community School, 110 Cushing St.
- King Open Extended Day Summer Program, 850 Cambridge St.
- Morse Community School, 40 Granite St.
- Peabody Community School, 70 Rindge Ave.
- Tobin Community School, 181 Vassal Ln.

Programs for Current 3rd – 8th Graders

Free for 13-year-olds!

- **Frisoli Summer Program**
Frisoli Youth Center, 61 Willow St.
- **Gately Summer Program**
Gately Youth Center, 70R Rindge Ave.
- **Russell Summer Program**
Russell Youth and Community Center, 680 Huron Ave.
- **Sports Leadership Academy**
Moore Youth Center, 12 Gilmore St.

Camp Rainbow, offered by Cambridge Recreation, serves Cambridge residents with disabilities, ages 6–22. For application information, visit: www.cambridgema.gov/CampRainbow

2026 DHSP Summer Lottery Application Help



Human
Service
Programs

Multilingual Help

If you need an interpreter to contact the Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP) for help with your application, **please call 617-865-2273**. An interpreter will connect you with a City representative.

In-Person Help

Get help completing your application! Come to 51 Inman St., 3rd Fl. during the dates and times below. No appointment needed.

- **Monday, February 2**

DHSP, 51 Inman St., 3rd Floor
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

- **Monday, February 23**

DHSP, 51 Inman St., 3rd Floor
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

- **Monday, February 9**

DHSP, 51 Inman St., 3rd Floor
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

- **Monday, March 2**

DHSP, 51 Inman St., 3rd Floor
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

*If these dates don't work for your schedule, **call DHSP at 617-349-6200** and we will schedule a time to help you with your application.*



More information

Plus d'informations Plis enfomasyon Mais informações Más información

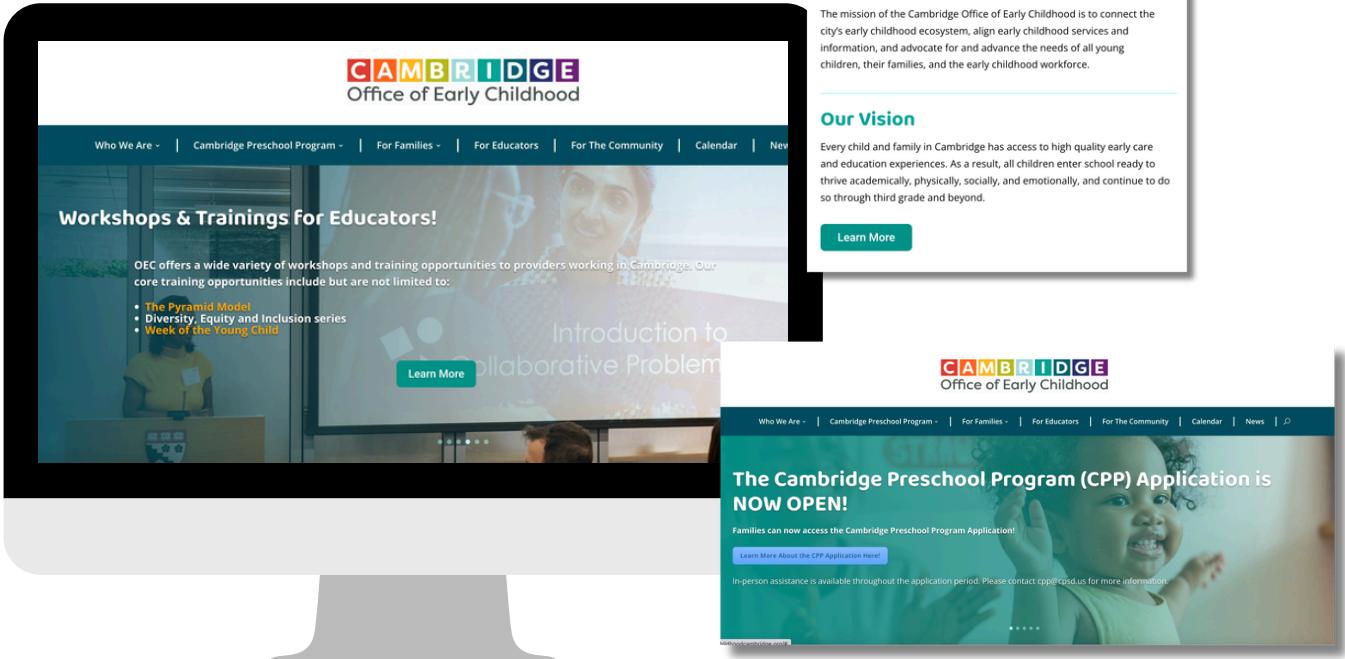
www.cambridgema.gov/SummerCamps

Contact DHSP with questions! askdhsp@cambridgema.gov • 617-349-6200

Cambridge Office of Early Childhood

OEC WEBSITE

**Need information on all things Early Childhood in Cambridge?
Visit the Cambridge Office of Early Childhood website!**



The image shows a screenshot of the Cambridge Office of Early Childhood website. At the top, there is a search bar with the URL www.earlychildhoodcambridge.org and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, the website's header features the word 'CAMBRIDGE' in a large, bold, blue and red block letter, with 'Office of Early Childhood' in a smaller, white sans-serif font underneath. The main content area has a large banner image showing a woman smiling and a person at a podium. Text on the banner includes 'Workshops & Trainings for Educators!', 'Introduction to Collaborative Problem', and 'Learn More'. Below the banner, the website's navigation menu includes links for 'Who We Are', 'Cambridge Preschool Program', 'For Families', 'For Educators', 'For The Community', 'Calendar', and 'News'. To the right of the banner, there are two sections: 'Our Mission' and 'Our Vision'. The 'Our Mission' section states: '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.' The 'Our Vision' section states: 'Every child and family in Cambridge has access to high quality early care and education experiences. As a result, all children enter school ready to thrive academically, physically, socially, and emotionally, and continue to do so through third grade and beyond.' Each section has a 'Learn More' button. At the bottom of the page, there is another banner for the 'Cambridge Preschool Program (CPP) Application' with a 'Learn More About the CPP Application Here!' button.

What Information Can I Learn From The OEC Website?

www.earlychildhoodcambridge.org is a one-stop-shop for the Cambridge community to access information and resources related to early childhood education and programs. The new website culminates a rebranding process for the Office of Early Childhood, formerly known as the Cambridge Birth to 3rd Grade Partnership.

The website includes but is not limited to:

- About Us & Contacts
- Announcements & Events
- The Cambridge Preschool Program
- Career Pathways
- Child Care Resources
- COEC Contact Information
- Collaborating Organizations
- CPS Programs
- Early Learning & School Readiness
- Educator Resources
- Paying For Childcare
- Preschool Scholarships
- Professional Development
- Program Quality Improvement
- Publications
- Research & Evaluation
- Workshops & Trainings

Cambridge Office of Early Childhood



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ABOUT US

The Cambridge Office of Early Childhood (OEC) is a collaborative office whose work and team are shared jointly by the City of Cambridge and Cambridge Public Schools.

Our Mission

The mission of the Cambridge Office of Early Childhood (OEC) 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.

Our Vision

Every child and family in Cambridge has access to high-quality early care and education experiences. As a result, all children enter school ready to thrive academically, physically, socially, and emotionally, and continue to do so through third grade and beyond.

Our Commitment To Equity

All children have the right to equitable early childhood experiences that enable them to achieve their full potential as engaged learners and valued members of society. Thus, all early childhood educators and family support staff have a professional obligation to advance equity. They can do this best when they are effectively supported by the settings in which they work and when they and their wider communities embrace diversity and full inclusion as strengths, uphold fundamental principles of fairness and justice, and work to eliminate structural inequities that limit equitable opportunities for children and their families. (Adapted from NAEYC's Position Statement on Advancing Equity)

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