

SUMMER 2025

Ready. Set. Grow!

CAMBRIDGE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER



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.



CAMBRIDGE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

www.earlychildhoodcambridge.org

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A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DR. CHERYL OHLSON

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
CAMBRIDGE OFFICE OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Dear Cambridge Early Childhood Community,

After several weeks when it felt like spring—or even winter—might never end, warm weather has finally arrived. In this issue of our newsletter, you'll find a variety of upcoming activities for the summer months, including professional development sessions for early childhood professionals and helpful resources for families with young children.

While our office won't be publishing a newsletter over the summer, our team will remain hard at work—planning for the upcoming school year, supporting families in accessing early childhood resources, and collaborating with partners across the city. We'll also be reviewing data and feedback from the first year of CPP implementation to identify opportunities for strengthening and improving our universal Pre-K system. We look forward to sharing those insights with you in the near future.

In the meantime, our office hopes that early childhood colleagues across the city will find time this summer to rest, recharge, and care for yourselves. We deeply appreciate the hard work you do every day to support families and provide Cambridge's young children with nurturing care and joyful learning experiences. You show up with heart, hope, and a steadfast belief in your power to inspire joy, creativity, kindness, and brilliance in our littlest learners. We extend these same wishes to the city's parents and caregivers, who navigate so much in a changing world to surround their children with love and happiness. Taking care of yourselves is just as important, and we honor that commitment.

As always, our office is here to support you. Please don't hesitate to reach out! Have an amazing summer!

In partnership,

Cheryl

Dr. Cheryl Ohlson, Executive Director

WHAT WE'RE CELEBRATING THIS SUMMER



JUNE | 06

- 1 LGBT PRIDE MONTH
- 9 INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY
- 14 FLAG DAY
- 15 FATHER'S DAY
- 19 JUNETEENTH
- 20 SUMMER SOLSTICE

JULY | 07

- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 15 GLOBAL HUG YOUR KIDS DAY
- 30 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FRIENDSHIP

AUGUST | 08

- 19 WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY
- 30 NATIONAL BEACH DAY



UPDATES FOR THE FIELD

**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!



MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Early Education and Care

Department of Early Education & Care News



The Board of Early Education and Care meets monthly from September to June.

For meeting locations, or any additional information please call:
EEC Main Office at (617) 988-6600

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

[To view archived meetings click here.](#)



CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



**The Center for Families
Newsletter is now available!**

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!

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



UPDATES FOR THE FIELD

Early Childhood Education Career Training Program 2025 Graduation Ceremony



In the spirit of the Cambridge Office of Early Childhood's mission to support the growth and development of the early care and education (ECE) workforce, our office has partnered with the Cambridge Office of Workforce Development (OWD) and the Cambridge Community Learning Center (CLC) to deliver the Early Childhood Education Career Training Program to individuals seeking to obtain their CDA credential.

This program is open to anyone interested in entering the field of early childhood education, as well as to current professionals seeking to earn their Child Development Associate (CDA) credential while continuing in their current roles. Key features of the program include:

- **Paid internship opportunity**
- **Weekly virtual and in-person classes with a coach to support online content learning**
- **Coaching support in the development of portfolios**

To find out more about our CDA programs, please visit
<https://www.cambridgema.gov/Services/EarlyChildhoodEducation>

UPDATES FOR THE COMMUNITY



Kindergarten

WELCOME PACKETS ARE COMING!

All children entering Kindergarten in Cambridge Public Schools will receive a Kindergarten Welcome Packet! Packets are mailed to families during the month of June. Each packet includes a copy of *This Is a School* by John Schu, passes to the Boston Children's Museum, a helpful Family Guide to support their transition into kindergarten, and more surprises to explore.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to our School Readiness Coordinator, Quéla Jules, gjules@cpsd.us. Learn more about our School Readiness efforts [here](#).



Check out our **2025 Cambridge Summer Guides below!**

[Cambridge Office of Early Childhood Summer Camp Guide 2025](#)

[Summer Activities Guide 2025](#)

UPDATES FOR THE COMMUNITY



City of Cambridge

Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/commissiononimmigrantrightsandcitizenship/knownyourrights>

We are experiencing a time of great uncertainty for immigrants in our community. Whether you're a U.S. citizen, a green card holder, a student on a visa, or undocumented, you have legal rights.

The City of Cambridge welcomes, serves, and supports all members of our community, regardless of immigration status. In 2020, the Cambridge City Council passed the [Welcoming Community Ordinance](#), formally enshrining these values into our municipal code. We have upheld this commitment, most recently last year, when a Safety Net Shelter was opened by the state in East Cambridge, and we saw neighbors, residents, organizations, and City staff come together to support families in need.

The Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship (CIRC) is a City department dedicated to welcoming, informing, connecting, and supporting Cambridge's immigrant community. CIRC provides information on legal resources, support services, and guidance on reporting discrimination based on protected classes, such as national origin and race. CIRC also organizes Know-Your-Rights trainings for residents, students, visitors, and community organizations serving our immigrant community.

Below are some helpful resources:

- [View Know Your Rights Video Presentation](#)
- [Know Your Rights Slide Presentation](#)
- [Red Cards in Multiple Languages](#)
- [Know Your Rights Information Sheet](#)
- [Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy \(MIRA\) Coalition Resources](#)

For Service Providers:

- [Best Practices for Service Providers KYR Slide Presentation](#)
- [Best Practices for Service Providers KYR Video Presentation](#)
- [Link to guidance for faith-based organizations](#)

UPDATES FOR THE COMMUNITY

Riverside Community Care

Leading the Way in Behavioral Healthcare & Human Services

SUPPORTING VERY YOUNG CHILDREN WITH IMMIGRATION AND DEPORTATION WORRIES (TRANSLATIONS)

[Supporting Very Young Children with Immigration \(Translations\)](#)

Resources for Families and Young Children: Federal Immigration Changes

Many parents and educators of young children, and particularly those from historically marginalized communities, have been working to process and manage the fears associated with changing federal immigration policies, and, more broadly, the rapidly shifting federal landscape and the many ways in which federal policy changes may impact young children and families. The resources and tools below have been compiled to help parents, caregivers, and educators know their rights and help young children manage stressful times.

Massachusetts-specific:

- <https://www.mass.gov/doc/ago-service-providers-immigration-guidance-02072025/download>
- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/18TDQa159h82PH8VriKUHZA-Ar5lbsYFY/view>
- <https://www.erikson.edu/academics/professional-development/supporting-immigrant-families/>

NAEYC Resources:

- <https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/pubs/abe2e-chap-6-excerpt.pdf>
- <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/tyc/aug2017/welcoming-refugee-children-into-classrooms>

Zero to Three Resources:

- <https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/considerations-for-serving-immigrant-families-with-young-children/>

From Learning for Justice (formerly Teaching Tolerance) -

<https://www.learningforjustice.org/supporting-students-from-immigrant-families>

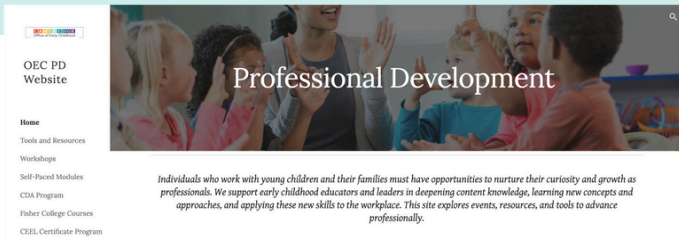
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



JUNE 2025

CAMBRIDGE
Office of Early Childhood

OEC Professional Development Website



Individuals who work with young children and their families must have opportunities to nurture their curiosity and growth as professionals. We support early childhood educators and leaders in deepening content knowledge, learning new concepts and approaches, and applying these new skills to the workplace. This site explores events, resources, and tools to advance professionally.

To view all current professional development opportunities available through the OEC, please follow this link to our PD website -->

[OEC Professional Development Website](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Partnering with Fathers (June 2025)

Start Date: June 3, 2025

Learn strategies to engage fathers in programs and services, and consider ways to support parents as co-partners.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Heather Bernt-Santy on Lillian Katz's Theory of Teacher's Developmental Stages

Date: June 5, 2025

2 PM - 3:30 PM EST

In this session you will learn to:

- Define the four developmental stages of teachers as outlined by Lillian Katz
- Identify the training needs of each stage
- Participants will be able to use knowledge of stages and needs to create professional development plans for staff

[REGISTER HERE](#)



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Decrease Attention-Getting and Tantrum Behaviors: Practical Solutions (Preschool-Second Grade)

Date: June 23, 2025
10:00 am – 4:30 pm

- Specific, practical strategies to reduce disruptive and often repeated, attention-getting behaviors including tattling, screaming, roaming, blurting out, excessive talking, tantrums, and outright refusal to follow directions
- Positive intervention strategies to address problem behaviors and make them teachable moments to develop self-regulation and problem-solving skills
- Key components of effective consequences that are instructive versus punitive in order to teach and nurture confidence and resilience
- Receive an extensive digital resource handbook filled with ready-to-use intervention and prevention strategies that work for preschool-second grade students

[REGISTER HERE](#)

JULY 2025

Addressing Behaviors that Challenge (July 2025)

Start Date: July 15, 2025

Explore how to use a relationship-based care approach to understand and respond to child behaviors that providers find challenging. Learn to respond to children's behavior by deeply reflecting upon their own reactions to children's behavior, regulating their emotional reactions, and engaging families to mutually understand the reasons for their children's behavior.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

What Do Young Children Think About: The development of inquiry and invention by Susan Engel, Ph.D.

Date: July 23, 2025
2 PM - 3:30 PM EST

Join us to:

- Understand the developmental origins of inquiry and invention
- Learn about the environmental influences that shape the growth of both curiosity and invention
- Acquire a new way of thinking about the role of ideas in the classroom

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Welcoming Farmers Market Season!

The 2025 Farmers Market season has officially begun! Farmers markets are a great opportunity to learn about local businesses and shop for locally grown produce. Shopping locally grown produce can be beneficial for several reasons. The proximity of farms means less transportation time, also meaning less need for pesticides! [This calendar](#) can show you the produce locally grown throughout the year in Massachusetts.

Farmers markets are great opportunities to utilize nutrition assistance programs, such as SNAP, SNAP Match, HIP, and WIC coupons.

See below for some farmers markets located throughout Cambridge:

Central Square - Mondays, 12-6pm

Norfolk St. & Bishop Allen Dr., Cambridge, MA 02139
May 19–November 24

Kendall Square - Thursdays, 12-6pm

350 Kendall St, Cambridge, MA 02142
May 29–October 30

Harvard University - Tuesdays, 11:30-5:30pm

1 Oxford St, Cambridge, MA 02138
June 17–October 28



Enjoy the tastes of summer and farmers market produce with a Strawberry Pico de Gallo!

Ingredients:

- 1 avocado, diced
- 1 cup strawberries, diced
- ½ cup mango, diced
- ¼ cup red onion, diced
- 2 tbsp cilantro, chopped
- 1 tsp honey
- Juice of 1 lime
- Salt and pepper to taste

Instructions:

- In a large bowl, combine prepared ingredients, and add salt and pepper.
- Best served if chilled. Enjoy!



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.

Do you want to become
an EEC certified teacher in
Massachusetts?

Early Childhood Education Career Training Program

October 2025 - June 2026



Earn the nationally recognized Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential

Program includes:

- Online early childhood education course
- Paid internship at a licensed early childhood program in Cambridge Weekly
- CDA prep class On-site
- Observations and feedback sessions from CDA coach
- Assistance creating a resume, getting a job and CDA test prep

Applicants must:

- Be at least 18 years old and have a high school diploma
- Read and write in English at high school level
- Be authorized to work in U.S.
- Pass a criminal background check
- Be able to regularly lift 35 - 40 lbs. and have MMR vaccine



Scan QR code to learn more!

Contact Sarah Figge Hussain: sfiggehussain@cambridgema.gov
or 617-798-0250

www.cambridgema.gov/EarlyChildhoodCareer



Department of
Human Service Programs

Case Management

Department of Human Service Programs
Community Engagement & Family Support Division



What We Do:

- *Provide information, referrals, and advocacy for families*
- *Organize services*
- *Connect families to resources in Cambridge and across Massachusetts*
- *Help families set and address their goals*



Scan for Referral Form

**Families with
Children
0-8 years Old**

We can connect families to childcare, SNAP/WIC services, parent education, employment, housing, ...and so much more!

By appointment or walk-in!

Ground Level at 51 Inman St,
Cambridge MA

 617-349-9169



jmarshall@cambridgema.gov



Cambridge Book Bike Summer 2025

Bringing free books and activities for **Cambridge kids of all ages** to a park near you!

Book Bike 2025 Schedule:

Tuesdays, 11:30am - 12:30pm:

- 7/8: Fresh Pond Apartments (Rindge Ave.)
- 7/15: Greene-Rose Heritage Park (Harvard St.)
- 7/22: Gold Star Mothers Park (Gore St.)
- 7/29: Hoyt Field (Gilmore St.)
- 8/5: Danehy Park (near Universal Playground)

Thursdays, 11:30am - 12:30pm:

- 7/10: Donnelly Field (York St. & Berkshire St.)
- 7/17: Danehy Park (by Sherman St. entrance)
- 7/24: Sennott Park (Broadway)
- 7/31: Glacken Field (Huron Ave.)
- 8/7: Costa Lopez Taylor Park (Charles St.)

The Summer Food Program offers free lunch to kids at these parks on weekdays, 11:30am-12:30pm.

Book Bike will have two special **summer parties:**

- **Russell Field** (Rindge Ave.), **July 28**, from 5:30-7:00pm. In case of rain, party is 7/29.
- **Clement Morgan Park** (Columbia St.), **August 6**, from 5:30-7:00pm. In case of rain, party is 8/7.

Held weather permitting. For rain cancellation, check Facebook or call 617-349-4038. Book Bike will be confirmed or canceled by 10:30am.



Facebook: @CambridgeBookBike

Web: Cambridgebookbike.org

In partnership with Summer Food Program (DHSP), this initiative is part of Let's Move! Let's Read! Let's Eat!

THE NEWTOWNE LEARNING EXCHANGE

a conference for early educators by early educators



SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025

9:00AM - 3:30PM

**11 GARDEN STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MA**

JOIN US FOR THE 2025 EXCHANGE!

SPARKS, SYSTEMS, & STORIES FOR A THRIVING SCHOOL ECOSYSTEM

REGISTRATION
OPENS IN MAY!

SPECIAL RATES
FOR CAMBRIDGE
EDUCATORS!

DONT MISS OUT!

- classroom open houses
- powerful panel conversation
- interactive workshops
- free breakfast & lunch



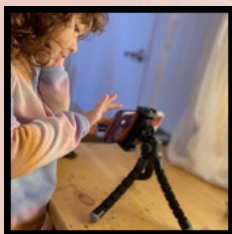
scan the code
or click here to
learn more





2025 LEARNING EXCHANGE WORKSHOPS

Project Pinecone: A Story of Child Citizens and Unexpected Connections When we began painting pinecones in December, we never thought it would bring us into contact with people from Ireland, the American Repertory theater, and several dogs. What started as a simple idea turned into a community connection project! In this workshop, we'll revisit the journey of Project Pinecone and reflect on how children's ideas can shape public space and shared experiences. We'll each paint a pinecone, swap stories, and imagine new ways to build trust, joy, and solidarity with the people around us (even those who we might not know yet).

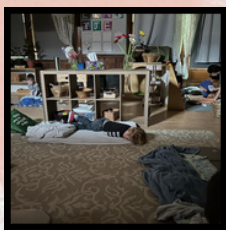


Teaching and Learning in the Tech Era: Exploring digital environments in preschool classrooms

Technology is becoming increasingly present in all aspects of our lives. While it's sometimes seen as a source of disconnection, we're exploring how it can also foster deeper connections. In this workshop, we'll share real classroom stories where digital tools supported collaboration, inclusion, and belonging. We'll experiment with technology-based provocations and reflect on how these tools might amplify diverse voices, encourage multiple forms of expression, and help every child feel seen, heard, and valued.

Engaging with Who Was Here Before Us: The Secret Forest and Lessons from Australia

Cambridge, as we know it today, looked very different in 1619—the year before the Mayflower landed. There were different people, different plants and animals, more ponds and streams, and far fewer human-made structures. In this workshop, we'll share the story of the Secret Forest, a small outdoor space at Newtownne School, and reflect on how one educator is drawing inspiration from Australian early childhood programs that center Aboriginal perspectives. Together, we'll consider how we might engage children with Native American perspectives in our own community and explore ways to help them understand who was here before us.



The Art of Rest: Reclaiming Nap Time as a Shared Ritual of Care

Many early childhood educators would say that rest time is the most exhausting part of the day — but why is something meant to be peaceful, relaxing, and restorative often so stressful? In this interactive workshop, we invite educators to reimagine rest time as a meaningful opportunity for connection and care—for both children and adults. Drawing on documentation from rest times across Newtownne classrooms, we'll reflect on how cultural norms, classroom routines, and our own values shape rest time experiences. Together, we'll explore how we can reclaim rest as a meaningful, intentional practice—for children and ourselves.

Playful Patterns, Powerful Learning: Understanding the Role of Schema in the Early Childhood Classroom

A child repeatedly throws blocks over a shelf. A toddler collects an assortment of objects in a bag and carries it around the classroom. Another child spends most of their play time diligently lining up or arranging objects. These are all examples of schematic play—repetitive, patterned behaviors that reflect children's developing understanding of the world around them. In this workshop, we will examine classroom documentation through the lens of schematic play. Together, we will explore how educators can recognize, celebrate, and expand on these play patterns to extend children's learning and promote an inclusive classroom community.



Reconnecting to the Heart of Our Teaching: A Space for Communal Reflection

The best teachers care deeply about their work — so deeply, at times, that it can lead to undue tension and fatigue. Slowing down and uplifting small moments in the day can serve as an antidote to the (sometimes self-induced) pressures of intentional teaching. In this workshop, we will reflect on our "why" — what is it that brought us to this work? We will then think about how to notice and reflect on the everyday interactions — small, big, silly, and serious — that continue to root and revitalize us, and bring us closer to that "why." Using journaling, guided reflection, photos, and stories, we will create a collective space to share and listen to the moments that sustain us.

CAMBRIDGE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD WEBSITE

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

www.earlychildhoodcambridge.org



What Information Can I Learn From The 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. This website includes but is not limited to:

- Advocacy (*Coming Soon*)
- Announcements & Events (Early Childhood related)
- Cambridge Preschool Program
- Career Opportunities
- Career Pathways
- Child Care Resources
- Collaborating Organizations
- CPS Programs
- Early Learning & School Readiness
- Educator Resources
- Health & Mental Health Resources
- Program Quality Improvement
- Paying For Childcare
- Preschool Scholarships
- Professional Development Workshops & Trainings
- Publications (*Coming Soon*)
- Research & Evaluation (*Coming Soon*)
- Who We Are

Need additional assistance? Please email us at earlychildhood@cpsd.us

CAMBRIDGE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD TEAM



Cheryl Ohlson, Ed.D
Executive Director
cohlon@cpsd.us



Christine Alphonse
Marketing & Communications Specialist
calphonse@cpsd.us



Jesus Armenta
Behavioral Health Specialist
jarmenta@cpsd.us



Isis Arnesen-Pardo
Education Coach
iarnesen@cpsd.us



Liz Barlock
Director of Education
ebarlock@cpsd.us



Jannia Brunson-Perez
Credentialing Specialist
jbrunsonperez@cpsd.us



Emily Callejas
Workforce Development Manager
ecallejas@cpsd.us



Candice Campbell
Enrollment Manager
cacampbell@cpsd.us



Christina Denis
Director Mentor
christenis15@gmail.com



Megan Fitzpatrick
Outreach & Enrollment Specialist
mefitzpatrick@cpsd.us



Dawn Grassi
Operations Manager
dgrassi@cpsd.us



Kaori Hattori de Panepinto
Director Mentor
kaorihdp@gmail.com



Katharyn Hok
Education Coach
khok@cpsd.us



Kyoko Itagaki
Administrative Assistant
kitagaki@cpsd.us



Quéla Jules
School Readiness Coordinator
qjules@cpsd.us



Nicole Johnson-Negron
Cambridge Preschool Program Manager
njohnson@cpsd.us



Megan Postal
Director of Family & Community Engagement
mpostal@cpsd.us



Marilyn Pratt
Education Coach
mpratt@cpsd.us



Danielle Rapoza
Program Quality Manager
dgrow@cpsd.us



Yadling Richemond
Child Care Information Specialist
yrichemond@cpsd.us



Rita Rzezuski
CDA Education Coach
rrezuski@gmail.com



Erin Sarpard
Professional Development Specialist
esarpard@cpsd.us