



EARLY CHILDHOOD ALLIANCE

Uniting for young children.....the heart of our community
Framingham, MA

Resource Guide For Early Childhood

- **Choosing Child Care**
- **Child Care Programs & Preschools**
- **Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten**
- **Helpful Community Resources**

The Early Childhood Alliance of Ashland/Framingham is a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement program funded by a grant through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care,



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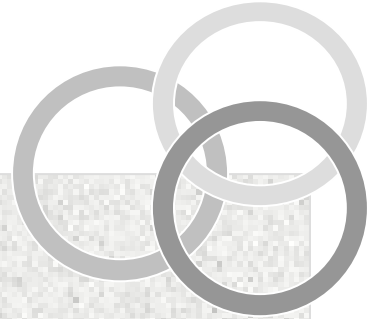
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Introduction

Our vision is a welcoming community for families and professionals that provides comprehensive resources and support for the healthy growth and development of our children.

Children depend on nurturing caregivers to enrich their environments with activities that nourish early learning. The first critical experiences are those of empowerment, pride, and a love of exploration that makes children eager to discover as they grow.

The Early Childhood Alliance encourages you to take the time to do your own exploration when choosing an early learning environment. One of our goals is to make the process of selecting child care less overwhelming and more efficient. We hope the information in these pages will be a useful tool and that the choice you make will lay the foundation for many successful years of learning.

Another priority of the ECA is to give early childhood educators opportunities to network and enhance their programs. Our dedicated Council consists of directors, educators, parents, and community liaisons that guide the Alliance in developing and implementing initiatives that will strengthen service delivery to young children and their families.

We, at the Early Childhood Alliance are proud to make quality child care more accessible. We are happy to discuss how you can pursue a quality early learning setting!

Our History

- **1993-** the Massachusetts Department of Education introduced the Community Partnership for Children (CPC) grant program to support local communities in their efforts to develop comprehensive programs and services for children ages 3-5. In Framingham, the program was known as Framingham Family Central.
- **2001-** funding was received to implement the Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP), a nationally recognized early literacy home visitation program.
- **2005 -**the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) was established and the CPC program became the responsibility of the new agency.
- **2009-**EEC launched a consolidation effort bringing former CPC early childhood programs, services and funding streams together to rename the program the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant (CFCE). The Framingham CFCE, under the auspices of the Framingham Public Schools, launched an initiative in collaboration with community partners, early childhood educators and families to identify and respond to the needs of the early childhood community under the newly formed **Early Childhood Alliance of Framingham (ECAAF)**.
- **2014-** the CFCE expanded to Ashland. ECAAF is now known as **Early Childhood Alliance of Ashland/Framingham (ECAAF)**.

What We Do

- Provide a point of entry to **Resources and Services** to help families identify Early Childhood Programs and Community Supports
- Sponsors signature early literacy **“Play, Learn, and Grow Together”** groups
- Ensure quality Early Childhood Education through **Professional Development for Early Childhood Educators**
- Collaborate with the **Family Support and Education Programs** such as Home Visiting and Supportive Services
- Offer home visitation through the **Parent Child Home Program (PCHP)**
- Direct **Kindergarten and Special Education Transition Activities** in collaboration with the Parent Information Center
- Have a **Resource Center with Internet Access**
- Promote **Community Advocacy Efforts** that are responsive to the current needs of children prenatal through age 8
- Work with the Community to sponsor **Early Childhood Enrichment Activities**
- Establish **Cross Community Partnerships** to support the Early Childhood Community

Our Vision & Mission

Our Vision is a welcoming community for families and professionals that provides comprehensive resources and support for the healthy growth and development of our children.

Our Mission is promoting and supporting the healthy growth and development of young children prenatal to age 8 by strengthening families and advocating for high quality learning experiences.

The Alliance fulfills its mission by ensuring access to:

- Early Learning Experiences for Children Prenatal Through Age 8
- School Readiness Activities
- Early Childhood Resources and Information
- Family Support and Education
- Professional Development for Early Childhood Educators
- Community Advocacy for Early Childhood Issues
- Transition supports from home to school, early intervention, preschool, kindergarten, special education and out-of-school time
- Leadership Opportunities

About Our Organization and Programs

Early Childhood Alliance of Ashland/Framingham is a collaboration of community advocates who believe in and actively promote early education.

Early Childhood Alliance (ECAF)

Works in conjunction with the programs below, as well as a dedicated Leadership Council, to advocate on behalf of the Early Childhood Community, to assess community needs, and to ensure the coordination of services.

Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Program (CFCE)

Sponsors signature early literacy “Play, Learn, and Grow Together” groups for family education & support, resource & referral, school readiness & transition activities for families with young children prenatal to 8 years.

Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP)

A nationally recognized early literacy program that provides home visits to bring early literacy activities to families with young children ages 18 months to 3 years old.

Educator and Provider Support Services (EPS)

Offers early childhood directors and educators access to professional development opportunities whereby they may receive, share, and exchange information through a variety of means such as: a Directors' Collaborative, e-mail and peer to peer support networks, curriculum exchanges, guest speakers, and ongoing communication providing links to community, regional, and statewide resources.

For information contact:

Jane Cohen DeHaven
Early Childhood Alliance of Framingham
Framingham, MA 01702
508-782-6932
jdehaven@framingham.k12.ma.us
http://www.framingham.k12.ma.us/ecaf_home.cfm

TYPES OF CHILD CARE

Center-Based Programs

Centers serve children full or part-time in groups or classrooms of children.

Children are usually grouped according to age:

- **Infant/Toddler:** birth through two years and nine months old
- **Nursery Schools, Preschools, and Pre-K:** two years and nine months old to kindergarten
- **Head Start / Home Based:** ages 3 through Pre-K whose families receive public assistance, children with a disability, and low-income families

Family Child Care

Family child care is delivered in a provider's home. Children in a family child care home setting may range in age from infant through school age and programs may serve between a maximum of six or ten children (with an additional assistant).

Some Family Child Care Providers are part of a *Family Child Care System*, which provide additional support to providers and families.

Other Authorized Programs

EEC also authorizes programs that are license-exempt, such as **Public School Preschool Programs**. To find out if your local Public School offers an early childhood program, call your local public school, or visit The Department of Education's web site at: www.profiles.doe.mass.edu

LICENSING INFORMATION **State Licensure and Beyond**

LOOK FOR THE EEC LICENSE

The EEC License means:

- Programs must be healthy, safe, and offer activities that help your child develop and grow.
- Providers have training in first aid and are CPR certified.
- Providers have specialized training in child development, and curriculum implementation.
- All employees are required to undergo a criminal background check.
- Programs must maintain appropriate ratios of teachers to children.

To view EEC licensing regulations and teacher/provider requirements, please visit: **www.mass.gov/edu/government/departments-and-boards/department-of-early-education-and-care**

The current state license for all these programs will be posted in a prominent location, so look for the license. You may also see an additional, nationally recognized accreditation on site from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), or, the National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC).

To learn more about these accreditation agencies visit their sites on the web:

National Association for the Education of Young Children: **www.naeyc.org**

National Association for Family Child Care: **www.nafcc.org**

FAMILY “HOMEWORK”

Consider your options. You know your child best. Make a list of your child’s needs and how he/she would best be satisfied. This can help you make a decision about the most appropriate childcare environment for your child. You have many options, such as:

- Childcare centers where your child is in a group setting with children the same age and multiple childcare providers.
- Family childcare where your child stays at someone’s home and the children might range in age.
- In-home care where a childcare provider comes to your home and looks after your child.
- Nursery or pre-schools where your child is in a group setting that is generally not year-round or full-day and has planned educational activities

Start your search early. If possible, begin visiting childcare settings ahead of time. Ask to see the provider’s license to operate, written health, safety, and emergency procedures, staff qualifications and requirements, including First Aid/CPR and background checks, and staff to child ratios. After you narrow down the choices, plan a visit with your child and see if he/she is comfortable and how he/she interacts with other children and caregivers.

Think about your schedule. Make sure the childcare setting meets the needs of your schedule, is easily accessible to you via whatever means of transportation you use, and is in a convenient location to work or home.

Consider your financial situation. Make sure the setting you choose provides quality childcare that is affordable to you. Understand the calendar for the year, tuition schedule, and penalties in case you need to move or leave the provider. Do not necessarily let your choice be affected by your financial situation. There are programs such as ***Child Care Resources, Inc. (www.sevenhills.org)*** that can assist you in paying for childcare or provide you with a voucher. You can visit **www.mass.gov/edu/government/departments-and-boards/department-of-early-education-and-care** to find your local child care resource and referral agency and ask about financial assistance.

Communicate with caregivers. Don’t be afraid to ask a lot of questions, after all, the caregiver you choose is taking care of someone very special to you. It is important to communicate with childcare providers about your child. Let them know about your child’s personality, likes and dislikes, medical needs, eating and sleeping habits, and other information that will help them get to know and interact with your child. Make sure you check in with them regularly to ask about how your child interacts with other children, how he/she behaves, and what he/she is doing.

VISITS AND INTERVIEWS

WHAT TO LOOK FOR ON YOUR VISIT:

- The EEC license!
- Space is clean and inviting.
- You can imagine your child learning and having fun.
- Activity level in the program matches your child's personality.
- Behavior management policies of the program are compatible with your parenting philosophy.
- Daily routine includes indoor and outdoor play and a mix of active and quiet activities.
- Teachers are qualified to work with children and are warm and welcoming.
- Snacks and meals are nutritious and well-balanced.
- Parents are invited to play an active role.
- Staff engages children in activities and conversation.
- Books and toys match the age of the children.

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT FOR THE INTERVIEW OF THE PROSPECTIVE CHILD CARE PROVIDERS:

- Is your program EEC licensed or authorized as license exempt?
- Do you have any other credentials such as accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children or National Association of Family Child Care?
- What is your educational background and experience?
- Do you hold a Child Development Associate Certificate (CDA) or early childhood or related field degree?
- Do you have any openings?
- What hours are you open?
- What are the ages of the other children my child would be grouped with?
- What is the ratio of adults to children?
- Are there holidays or other dates that the program closes?
- Do you offer part-time or flexible care?
- What backup care is provided in case of provider illness?
- What activities would my child experience?
- How will you accommodate my child with special needs?
- What is your policy when a child is ill?
- Do you have a written discipline policy?
- What type of indoor and outdoor activities do you provide?

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR PRESCHOOL

Starting preschool is one of the many exciting milestones of childhood. However, it can also be a stressful time for both children and parents, especially if it is your child's first time going to school. If you take some steps to prepare yourself and your child for this new experience, you can ease some of the anxiety you both may have about starting preschool.

Ease your child in. Begin to prepare your child at least a week before you start leaving him/her in child care. See if you can take your child for short visits a few times before he/she starts the preschool schedule. Talk to your child about the activities he/she will be doing, and where in the schedule, for example after nap or lunch, you will pick him/her up. Allow extra time for dropping your child off for the first few weeks in case he/she has trouble saying good-bye. Even if your child is upset, it is important that he/she knows you are leaving instead of you slipping out while he/she is distracted. Develop and practice a routine for getting ready to go so neither you nor your child are anxious and stressed in the morning.

Keep everyone calm. It is natural for your child to express fear and anxiety about going to preschool and for you to be nervous, too. Talk to your child about going to preschool and what he/she will do there. If you have older children, children of friends, or nieces and nephews, have them share their stories with your soon-to-be preschooler. Try to keep these conversations casual so your child does not feel intimidated or overwhelmed.

Go for a visit. Find out if your child's preschool has a visiting day or orientation for parents and children. This is an opportunity for you to talk with the teacher(s) about the preschool, daily activities, and anything else you may have questions about, and for your child to experience the preschool with you present.

Meet other preschoolers. If possible, organize a play date or two with children who will be in your child's preschool class. You may already know families with children the same age as yours, or you might meet some when you visit the school. You can also ask the preschool if there are any families close by to you or new to the school, as well. This way, not every face in the classroom will be unfamiliar when your child goes to preschool the first day, and you can find other parents with whom to share experiences.

Get into a routine. Start to adjust your child's sleeping and eating schedules slowly in the weeks leading up to the first day of preschool. This may help smooth the transition and make him/her more comfortable when school finally starts and you have to be out the door at a certain time. You can even create a schedule during the day, similar to that which your child will experience in preschool, to get him/her familiar to the structure of switching activities and having set times for lunch, snack, nap, etc.

Use books to prepare. Include some children's books about the first day of school along with the other books you and your child read together. This will give your child the opportunity to ask questions and express any fears he/she may have. You can ask his/her new teacher(s) or the librarian at your public library for recommendations.

Practice saying goodbye. Create a “goodbye routine” with your child before the first day of school and talk about what will happen. This can be something as simple as a kiss or a hug, a secret handshake, or a special way of saying goodbye. When it is time for you to leave, make a point of saying good-bye even though it may be difficult for both of you. Sneaking out of the classroom when your child is not looking will make the transition far more difficult for him/her and he/she may become scared and upset when he/she realizes that you are gone.

Give it time. Leave plenty of time on the first day to arrive at school and be prepared to spend some time in the classroom with your child. Some preschools even request that parents stay in the classroom on the first day with their child, or at least for part of the day. Anticipate some ups and downs the first few weeks of school as your child gets adjusted. **Even children are allowed to have bad days.**

*Thanks to the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and excerpts from **One Tough Job**, a trademark from the Massachusetts Children’s Trust Fund, for granting permission to replicate information from “Choosing Child Care”, “Types of Child Care”, “Preparing Your Child for Preschool” and “Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten” for this handbook.*



ABOUT OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

ECAAF is proud to provide families with a comprehensive local listing of high quality early childhood education opportunities in a variety of settings that meet the individual child’s needs and family philosophy for early learning. Center based and family home care providers strive to reach the latest in best practices outlined in the field of early childhood and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Some of the providers listed here have received credentials beyond the state licensing requirements and deserve the recognition for their dedication to upholding the rigorous standards to obtain such credentials.

We take special note of those early childhood educators by placing a ♥ next to their program information as they have gone above and beyond the responsibilities to the ECAAF grant through their proven leadership in the community. These programs demonstrate a commitment to ECAAF’s goals through their achievement of NAEYC accreditation and continued active participation and support on the Directors Collaborative and/or the ECAAF Council.

We sponsor educational events and access to professional development activities to enrich the early childhood community. These valuable partners provide expertise as to the direction of where the field of early learning is going in the future so we can stay cutting edge in curriculum development, best practice standards, professional growth opportunities for educators and so on. Their collaborative efforts support ECAAF’s mission to provide **ALL** children with a quality early learning experience. We are fortunate to have these educators give us a true pulse of the early childhood community’s needs in order to design responsive early learning programs for our young children and families.



CENTER BASED CHILD CARE PROGRAMS AND PRESCHOOLS

FRAMINGHAM

Early Childhood centers where your child is in a group setting with children the same age and multiple childcare providers.

****Some programs accept the EEC financial assistance vouchers for child care*

The Early Childhood Alliance does not endorse any one program. Our purpose is to provide educational and resource information only.

For a comprehensive listing of programs go to:

www.eec.state.ma.us/ChildCareSearch/EarlyEduMap.aspx

♥B.L.O.C.K.S Preschool

(Serves Ages: 2yrs 9 mos - 5yrs)

Rosie Alvarez, Director

www.framingham.k12.ma.us/blocks.cfm

29 Upper Joclyn Ave Framingham.....508-788-2380

♥Circle of Friends

(Serves Ages: 8 wks - 6yrs)

Cara Chase, Director

www.cofps.org

61 Nicholas Road, Framingham.....508-877-2593

Children's Creative Learning Center***

(Serves Ages: 6 wks-8 yrs)

Danielle Calnan, Director

www.cclc.com/center/ma/cclc-framingham

770 Cochituate Road, Framingham.....508-390-2700

♥Framingham Centre Nursery School

(Serves Ages: 2 - 6yrs)

Jacey Norton, Director

www.fcnsma.org

24 Vernon Street, Framingham.....508-875-8260

♥ Framingham State University Centers for Early Childhood Education

(Serve Ages 2 years 9 months - 5 years)

Valerie Hytholt, Director

www.framingham.edu/the-fsu-difference/centers-and-institutes/centers-for-early-childhood-education/index

Early Childhood Center

2 Church Street, Framingham.....508-626-4084

Jeanne M. Canelli Child Development Lab

100 State Street, Hemenway Hall 106, Framingham.....508-626-4739

♥Happy Hollow

(Serves Ages: 2.9 yrs – 6 yrs)
Ann Laquerre and Sue Wilkinson, Directors
www.happyhollowschool.com
29 Oaks Road, Framingham..... 508-872-4234

Kiddie Academy

(Serves Ages: Infant – 6 years)
Doreen Frasier, Director
www.kiddieacademy.com/framingham
1292 Worcester Road.....508-270-2700

Kiddie Lodge***

(Serves Ages 15 months - 5 years)
MaryEllen Wyman, Director
www.kiddielodge.com
27 Cherry Street, Framingham.....508-875-4215

KinderCare Learning Center***

(Serves Ages 6 weeks-5 years)
Amy Peleskey, Director
www.kindercare.com/our-centers/framingham/ma/300689/
73 Harrington Road, Framingham.....508-877-7383

Learning Zone

(Serves Ages: Infant – 6 years)
Glory Negron, Director
www.thelearningzoneonline.com
63 Fountain Street.....508-872-3600
* Vouchers accepted

Loving Nest***

(Serves 2.9 – 5years)
Vera Linardi, Director
www.lovingnestpreschool.com
562 Waverly Street, Framingham.....508-309-6729

♥MetroWest YMCA Early Childhood Center***

(Serves Ages: 15 months – 6 years)
Lolly Miglin, Assistant Director
www.metrowestymca.org/programs/early-learning-center-framingham-branch
280 Old Connecticut Path, Framingham.....508-879-4420 ext. 52

♥Mountainside Children’s Center

(Serves Ages: Infant - Kindergarten)
Caren Ginese, Director
www.mountainsideschool.org
100 Pennsylvania Ave., Framingham 508-820-9300

♥Over the Rainbow***

(Serves Ages: Infants - 5 years)
Brenda DeMarco, Director
www.overtherainbownurseryschool.com
115 Edgebrook Road, Framingham 508-877-9237

♥Plymouth House Nursery School

(Serves Ages: 2.9 – 5 Years)

Kathie Watson, Director

www.plymouthhousenurseryschool.com

87 Edgell Road, Framingham 508-875-1001

♥SMOC Child Care and Head Start***

(Serves Ages: Infant – 5th grade)

Cheryl Smith, Area Director

www.smoc.org

12 Roxanna Street, Framingham 508-620-2373

SMOC Head Start intake line.....508-820-8380

♥Staples Child Care-Bright Horizons

(Serves Ages: Infant – Kindergarten)

Jason, Director

centers.brighthouse.com/staples

600 Staples Drive, Framingham..... 508-253-0555

♥Suburban Child***

(Serves Ages: 8 weeks – 14 years)

Leslie Kinney, President

suburbanathletic.com

10 Roxanna Street, Framingham 508-879-6544

Summit Montessori

(Serves Ages: 3 – School Age)

Siobhan Mahaney, Admissions Director

www.summitmontessori.org

283 Pleasant Street, Framingham 508-872-3630

FRAMINGHAM CENTER BASED PROVIDERS AT-A-GLANCE

PROVIDER NAME	OPEN			HOURS			AGE			MEALS INCLUDED	\$\$\$ ASSISTANCE	NAEYC ACCREDITED
	YEAR ROUND	SCHOOL YEAR	SUMMER SESSION	FULL DAY	HALF DAY (AM AND/OR PM SESSIONS)	EXTENDED DAY	INFANT – 3 YRS	2 – 5 YRS	SCHOOL AGE		ACCEPTS VOUCHERS	
B.L.O.C.K.S Preschool		•		•	•	•		•				•
Children’s Creative Learning Center	•			•				•				
Circle of Friends	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•
Framingham Centre Nursery School		•	•	•	•	•		•	•			•
Framingham State University Child Development Lab		•	•		•			•				•
Happy Hollow		•		•	•	•		•	•			•
Kiddie Academy	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•		•
Kiddie Lodge	•	•	•	•			•	•			•	
KinderCare Learning Center	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•
Learning Zone	•	•	•	•	•		•	•			•	
Early Childhood Center Framingham State University	•	•	•	•				•				•
Mountainside Children’s Center	•			•			•	•			•	•
Over the Rainbow	•		•	•		•	•	•			•	•
Plymouth House Nursery School		•			•	•		•				•
SMOC Child Care and Head Start	•			•			•	•	•	•	•	•
Staples Child Care/Bright Horizons	•			•			•	•				
Suburban Child	•		•	•	•		•	•	•		•	•
Summit Montessori		•		•	•	•		•	•			

FAMILY BASED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Family child care is where your child stays at someone's home and the children there might range in age. Due to the extensive list of family based care care providers, this publication is only able to provide you with the contact information for finding a comprehensive listing for family based child care.

*The Early Childhood Alliance does not endorse any one program. Our purpose is to provide educational and resource information only. For a comprehensive listing of early childhood education programs go to:
www.eec.state.ma.us/ChildCareSearch/EarlyEduMap.aspx*

Child Care Resources

799 West Boylston Street, Worcester508-856-7930

www.sevenhills.org

Local child care resource and referral agency. Provides information on openings, child care for children with disabilities, fees/financial assistance, and written materials on evaluating programs.

Department of Early Education and Care

51 Sleeper St., 4th Floor, Boston.....617-988-6600

www.mass.gov/edu/government/departments-and-boards/department-of-early-education-and-care

Licensing agency for Child Care Programs. Search engine for daycare providers by town.

SMOC Family Child Care System

Eileen Boudreau, Family Child Care Coordinator..... 508-620-2393

Natick Family Child Care Association

Maureen Tortola, Referral Coordinator

www.natickfamilychildcareassociation.com.....508-655-5403

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN

Starting kindergarten is a big but exciting transition in a child's life. It can be scary and stressful for both you and your child, especially if this is your child's first experience in school. However, if you take some steps to prepare yourself and your child for this new experience, you can ease some of the anxiety and get your child's schooling off to a great start!

Start talking early. Start talking about kindergarten a few weeks before school starts. Tell your child all of the positive and exciting things about kindergarten, but also listen to him/her and answer his/her questions. Be sure to listen for emotions such as excitement, fear, anxiety, and confusion. Provide answers to his/her questions, but also comfort and reassurance to help him/her feel more confident about going to kindergarten.

Go for a visit. Find out if your child's kindergarten class has an orientation or a visiting day. You and your child can meet the teacher(s) and other children who will be in the class as well as other parents, and you can find out what his/her daily schedule will be like. If not, take your child to the school, walk around the grounds together, and play on the playground.

Get to know other kindergarteners. If possible, organize a play date or two with children who will be in your child's class. You may already know families with children the same age as yours, or you might meet some when you visit the school. You can also ask the teacher(s) if there are any families close by to you. This way, not every face in the classroom will be unfamiliar when your child goes to school the first day, and you can find other parents with whom to share the experiences.

Get into a routine. In the weeks before your child starts kindergarten, establish a school day routine. Put your child to bed as if it were a school night and have him/her wake up in the morning and get ready (get dressed, have breakfast, wash up) as if it were a school morning. If this is your child's first experience in a school setting, create a schedule during the day similar to that which she will experience in preschool to get her used to the structure. If your child will be taking a lunch or snack, make sure that any containers and packages are user-friendly. If your child takes a backpack to school, make sure it is a good fit and easy for her to get on and off.

Practice everyday activities. If your child has never been to school before, there may be a few things you want to practice with your child in the weeks leading up to kindergarten. If you are not sure your child can do things like use the bathroom on his/her own, take off and put on his/her shoes, or put his/her jacket on, you may want to work on these things with him/her. Ask the classroom teacher(s) what your child will be expected to know how to do, and let them know if there is anything with which he/she struggles.

Give it time. Leave plenty of time on the first day to arrive at school, especially if this is your child's first school experience. When it is time for you to leave, make a point of saying goodbye. Sneaking out of the classroom when your child is not looking will make the transition far more difficult for him/her and may even scare him/her when he realizes that you are gone. It takes some children longer than others to adjust and become comfortable with the new school routine. Anticipate some ups and downs during the first few weeks. If you are struggling or have concerns about how the transition is going, ask your child's teacher(s) for some ideas.

***At end of this Resource Guide, see "Ready for School Checklist" & "For the Record", your child's school information at your fingertips**

FRAMINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

www.framingham.k12.ma.us

Superintendent's Office508-626-9117
Parent Information Center.....508-424-3420
Special Education Department.....508-626-9123
Transportation.....508-626-9179

Pre-School

B.L.O.C.K.S......508-788-2380

Elementary Schools

Barbieri 508-626-9187
Brophy 508-626-9158
Dunning..... 508-626-9155
Hemenway.....508-626-9149
King.....508-782-7201
McCarthy..... 508-626-9161
Potter Road..... 508-626-9110
Stapleton..... 508-626-9143
Woodrow Wilson..... 508-626-9164

Middle Schools

Cameron 508-879-2290
Fuller 508-620-4956
Walsh 508-626-9180

High School

Framingham High School 508-620-4963
Thayer campus 508-626-9191
Joseph P. Keefe Technical School 508-416-2100

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Boys & Girls Club of Metrowest www.bgcmetrowest.org
154 Pearl Street.508-620-7145
Social recreation, the arts, technology, prevention programs, and physical education

King Elementary School.....508-626-9115
Afterschool program for children

Metrowest YMCA Framingham www.metrowestymca.org
280 Old Connecticut Path., Framingham.....508-879-4420 ext.42
Afterschool program serving Framingham school children grades K – 5th

Over the Rainbow www.overtherainbownurseryschool.com
115 Edgebrook Road, Framingham.....508-877-9237
Afterschool program for children grades K – 6th

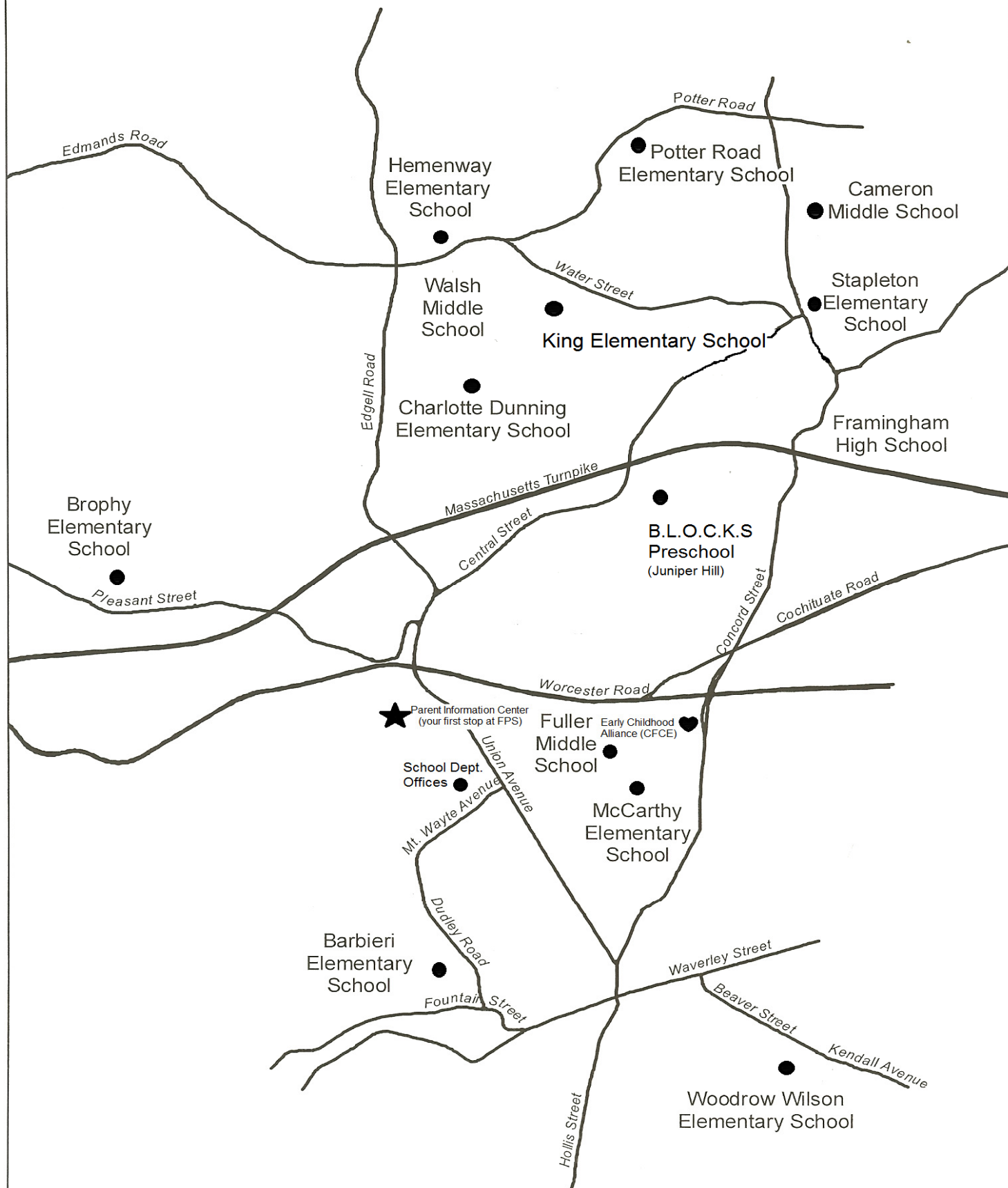
SMOC www.smoc.org
12 Roxanna Street., Framingham.....508-620-2373
Afterschool programs for children through 5th grade

Stapleton Elementary School.....508-877-1171
Afterschool program for children grades K – 5th

Suburban Child www.suburbanchild.com
10 Roxanna St., Framingham.....508-879-6544
Afterschool program available for school children up to 14 years old.

Woodrow Wilson Elementary School.....508-424-3422
Afterschool program for children grades K – 5th

Map of Framingham Public Schools



Helpful Community Resources

IMPORTANT EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
POISON CONTROL	800-682-9211
Mass 211 Information & Referral Line	1-877-211-6277 <u>www.mass211.org</u>

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE / CRISIS INTERVENTION

Mass Resources

www.mass211help.org

A website that provides information about various assistance programs in the state. A screening tool can be used on the site to find programs one may be eligible for.

A Place To Turn

www.aplacetoturn-natick.org

99 Hartford St, Rear, Natick.....508-655-8868

Services include: emergency food and clothing to individuals and families

Advocates Incorporated

www.advocates.org

1881 Worcester Road, Framingham.....508-628-6300

Meeting the needs of individuals and families facing diverse life challenges through the provision of counseling, residential and home based support, school and court outreach

Advocates (PES)Psychiatric Emergency Services.....508-872-3333 or 1-800-640-5432

A team provides mobile crisis intervention services to individual & families of all ages

Framingham Housing Authority

www.framha.org

One John J. Brady Drive, Framingham.....508-879-7562

Family housing, veteran's housing, elderly and congregate housing, Section 8, and housing rehabilitation program

Metrowest Harvest Food Bank

300 Howard Street508-788-3663

Emergency food assistance

Parental Stress Hotline.....800-632-8188

Pearl Street Cupboard and Café

www.uwotc.org/food/framingham

10 Pearl Street.....888-811-3291 x 4922

South Middlesex Opportunity Council

www.smoc.org

7 Bishop St., Framingham.....508-620-2300

Wraparound services include : Mental health services, substance abuse services, crisis intervention, criminal justice/re-entry programs, employment/adult education, fuel/financial assistance, housing assistance

HEALTH

MassHealth.....**617-210-5000**

Dental Health.....**800-207-5019**

Consumers of MassHealth may receive funds for transportation services for health care services

Criterion-Middlesex Early Intervention

www.criterionchild.com/index.php/programs/early-intervention/26

651 Franklin Street, Framingham.....508-620-1442

Screens children under 3 years for developmental delays and provides services at home and at the center in a group setting. Covered by health insurance. Parents can make the referral.

Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center www.kennedychc.org
354 Waverly Street.....508-852-1805
Optometry Department 72 Union Ave.....508-852-1805 ext 1765
Dental Clinic 32 Concord Street.....508-852-1805 ext 1115

Metro West Medical Center – Framingham Campus
115 Lincoln St., Framingham..... 508-383-1000

MA Lead Poisoning Prevention Program..... 800-532-9571

South Bay Mental Health www.southbaymentalhealth.com
855 Worcester Road, Framingham.....508-834-3100
Helps individuals and families become more self-sufficient and lead more fulfilling, productive lives by delivering a full range of resources, staff and programs.

Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) www.natickvna.org
209 West Central St., Suite 313, Natick.....508-653-3081

WIC Nutrition Program www.mass.gov/wic
7 Bishop St., Framingham.....508-620-1445
Provides nutrition and health education, healthy food and other free services to qualified families.

INFANT & CHILD SAFETY / CPR

American Red Cross www.bostonredcross.org
867 Main St., Waltham.....781-642-7000

Century Health Systems www.centuryhealth.org
209 W. Central St., Suite 311, Natick508-651-1786
Adult/pediatric CPR & First Aid

LITERACY PROGRAMS

Early Childhood Alliance - Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE)
Framingham.....508-782-6932 www.framingham.k12.ma.us/ECAF
Ashland.....508-879-4420 ext.44
Early literacy Play Learn and Grow Together groups, family education & support, resource & referral, school readiness & transition activities for families with young children prenatal to 8 years.

Parent-Child Home Program
Framingham.....508-782-6932
Home visiting early literacy program for children ages 18 months to 3 years.

Framingham Adult English As A Second Language Program
Fuller Middle School.....508-626-4282
English classes at six levels (by lottery), GED and Citizenship classes. New classes begin in September and January. All classes are free.

Framingham Public Library (Main Branch) www.framinghamlibrary.org
49 Lexington Street, Framingham.....508-532-5570

McAuliffe Branch
746 Water Street, Framingham.....508-532-5636
Baby lap sits, story times, book clubs and more

Literacy Unlimited508-532-5574
1:1 tutoring for adults in basic education, reading, writing, GED and ESL. Weekly sessions are free.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Department of Children & Family Services

www.mass.gov/dcf

300 Howard St.....508-424-0100

Family support, child abuse prevention, crisis intervention

Department of Transitional Assistance

300 Howard St.508-661-6600

Services include: food/nutrition assistance, employment support, financial assistance

Healthy Families of Framingham

www.criterionchild.com/index.php/programs/newborn-home-visiting

655 Franklin St, Framingham.....508-879-1726

Home visiting, family support, and education on child development
from pre-natal to age 3, for first time parents age 20 and under.

Jewish Family Service of Metrowest

www.jfsmw.org

475 Franklin St., Suite 101, Framingham.....508-875-3100

Services include: adoption, elder care, citizenship assistance, parent education/support, food assistance

Macaroni Kidwww.framingham.macaronikid.com

Sign up for a free weekly e-newsletter to get connections to different ways to "entertain, educate and exhaust your kids!"

Metrowest Legal Services

www.mwlegal.org

63 Fountain Street.....508-620-1830

Free civil legal services to eligible people especially around housing, government, government benefits, and domestic violence

MetroWest Boston Mothers and More.....www.metrowestmothersandmore.org

Meetings twice per month, e-groups & playgroups and activities

MOMS Club of Framingham

www.momsclubofframingham.com

1343 Edgell Road.....617-797-3327

Parents Helping Parents

www.parentshelpingparents.org

108 Water St., Watertown.....800-882-1250

Social Security Administration.....508-875-5047 or 1-800-772-1213

100 Concord Street

Administration of social security and social security insurance programs; issuing of social security identification numbers

United Way of Massachusetts Tri-County.....www.uwotc.org

46 Park St # 2, Framingham.....508-872-3291

Supporting families through health, education, income, and basic needs initiatives that include: MASS 211, Distribution Centers, and Food Bank.

The Freedman Center for Child and Family Development www.mspp.edu/freedman

One Wells Avenue, Newton.....617-332-3666

Providing services for children, families and educators including new baby/new parents groups, playtimes, educational workshops, music program for young children.

SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES

Criterion-Middlesex Early Intervention

www.criterionchild.com/index.php/programs/early-intervention/26

651 Franklin Street, Framingham.....508-620-1442

Screens children under 3 years for developmental delays and provides services at home and at the center in a group setting. Covered by health insurance. Parents can make the referral.

Federation for Children with Special Needs

www.fcsn.org

The Schrafft Center

529 Main Street, Suite 1M3 Boston, MA 02129617-236-7210 or 800-331-0688

An organization that works with parents and other parent organizations to assist children with special needs and their families. Offers several free workshops for parents.

Special Education Parent Advisory Council- F-SEPAC

(See Framingham Public Schools Website: www.framingham.k12.ma.us)

South Bay Early Childhood

www.southbaymentalhealth.com

855 Worcester Road, Framingham.....508-834-3100

Offers Early Intervention services for children 3 and under. Services are available in homes, community settings, and South Bay Early Intervention sites.

Special Needs Advocacy Network

www.spanmass.org

PO Box 269, Natick.....508-655-7999

TRANSPORTATION

Metrowest Regional Transit Authority (formerly LIFT)....508-935-2222 www.mwrta.com

Toll Free: 1-888-996-9782

Local scheduled bus service in Framingham with connections to Natick Neighborhood Bus and other surrounding towns.

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA).....800-392-6100 www.mbta.com

UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES/CONTINUING EDUCATION

Framingham State University

www.framingham.edu

100 State Street, Framingham.....508-626-1220

Framingham State University offers a 4 year degree for undergraduate and graduate college education.

Joseph P. Keefe Technical High School

www.keefetech.org

750 Winter Street, Framingham.....508-416-2100

Adult education evening classes, recreational swim, summer career exploration and sports camps for children ages 9-14.

Massachusetts Bay Community College

www.massbay.edu

19 Flagg Drive, Framingham.....508-270-4000

MassBay offers numerous programs of study. They include Associate degrees, Certificate programs, and Corporate & Community Education.

University of Phoenix

www.phoenix.edu

1 Research Drive, Westborough.....508-614-4100

Degrees are offered at the associate, bachelor, master and doctorate levels and can be completed online, at one of the campuses or in a combined learning format. The school also offers undergraduate and graduate certificate programs, professional development courses and teacher education courses.

TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM

Framingham Town Hall - Memorial Building, 150 Concord Street. Town Offices, Nevins Hall
www.framinghamma.gov

RECREATIONAL & ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Amazing Things Arts Center www.amazingthings.org
160 Hollis St.508-405-ARTS(2787)
Musical & theatrical performances & art displays

Brazilian American Center (BRACE) www.brazilianamericancenter.org
560 Waverly Street.....508-628-0360
Education, cultural programs, sports, the arts and services for immigrants.*Open only 6-9pm.

Concerts on the Green.....Town Common - Edgell Road
Every Friday evening, 6:30pm, June - August. Free live, outdoor concerts (including swing, rock, jazz, etc.). Buy food there or bring your own - picnicking encouraged. Bring blankets and/or chairs for seating.

Christa McAuliffe Center.....www.christa.org
Framingham State University, 7 Maynard Road.....508-626-4050
Planetarium, space education and exhibits for general public

Danforth Art www.danforthmuseum.org
123 Union Ave.....508-620-0937
Galleries, special exhibits, introductory through advanced courses for all ages.

Framingham.com - community calendar, news, businesses www.framingham.com

Framingham Historical Society
16 Vernon Street508-872-3780
Collection of historical artifacts and a research archive relating to five centuries of history in Framingham.

Framingham Parks & Recreation Department www.framinghamma.gov/parks
475 Union Street.....508-532-5960
A variety of activities offered to children and adults every season including lessons in all kinds of sports, kids crafts, family and adult trips.

Loring Skating Arena www.framinghamma.gov/parks
Fountain Street508-620-4877
Public ice skating, lessons and leagues September - April.

MetroWest YMCA www.metrowestymca.org
280 Old Connecticut Path.....508-879-4420
Pool, fitness center, sports classes, child care & preschool programs, school vacation & summer camps.

N.E. Wild Flower Society – Garden in the Woods www.newenglandwild.org
180 Hemenway Road508-877-7630
45 acre botanical garden operated by the New England Wild Flower Society. Classes offered.

Performing Arts Center of MetroWest www.pacmetrowest.org
140 Pearl Street508-875-5554
Private and group lessons for instruments, voice; group classes in dance and drama. All ages.

Suburban Athletic Club www.suburbanathletic.com
10 Roxanna Street508-879-6544
Pool, child care & preschool programs, school vacation & summer camps

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES AND SPORT PROGRAMS

TOWN & STATE PARKS

Callahan State Park – Millwood Street across from golf course. Walking and hiking. Dogs & horses allowed. Cross country skiing.

Carol Getchell Trail - Walking trail (1/2 mile) behind Stapleton School along Sudbury River. Enter at Sudbury Landing (by Old Danforth St. Bridge) behind school or end of Little Farms Rd

Cushing Memorial Park- Dudley Rd, Framingham. Walking, public restrooms, playground equipment

Farm Pond - Dudley Road. Walking trails, fishing, non-powered boats, group outings

Macomber - Conservation area located on Badger Road

Nobscott Boy Scout Reservation - Edgell Road on the Sudbury Town line. Hiking

Tercentennial Park- Dudley Road

Roosevelt Park - Fay Road

Wittenborg Woods - Conservation area. Wayside Inn Road

BEACHES

Framingham has three public beaches with day passes. Season passes and swim lessons available through the Framingham Parks & Recreation Department

Learned Beach: Learned Pond at Lower Shawmut Terrace (*off Prindiville Ave*).

Saxonville Beach: Lake Cochituate at Lake Road (*off Old Connecticut Path, near Wayland town line*).

Waushakum Beach: Waushakum Pond at Nipmuc Road (*off Winthrop St, near Rt. 126 and Ashland town line*).

SPORTS

(Check web links on Framingham Parks & Recreation/ Other Groups/ Youth Groups website)

Bay Path Figure Skating Club508-877-2662 Tots - Adults Programs

Framingham United Soccer Club - ages 6 & up

www.fsuc.org

Framingham Youth Lacrosse – ages 6 & up

www.framinghamyouthlacrosse.org

Girls Softball..... 508-405-1716 For grades 4 and older

Little League Baseball - Baseball for children ages 6-19 yrs

Pop Warner Football - Football and Cheerleading for boys and girls ages 7-15.

Temple Beth Am Brotherhood Basketball League – 508-872-8300 Open to all, grade 5 and up

Youth Hockey - All levels up to 16 years of age. Beginners ages 5-9

TENNIS COURTS

2 courts at Anna Murphy Park (Cove St. & Lake Ave)

4 courts at Butterworth Park (Bishop Street)

4 courts at Bowditch Park (Walnut Street side) Lighted until 10pm daily, May – September

6 courts at Winch Park (A Street next to the High School) Lighted until 10pm daily, May – Sept.

SPORTS FIELDS, PLAYGROUNDS

The following sports fields are for public use when not in use for school, league sports, or other scheduled events

Anna Murphy*Cove St. and Lake Ave.*

Playground Equipment, (2) Tennis Courts, Baseball (Little League)

Apple Street Playground*Bethany Rd.*

Playground Equipment

Arlington Street Playground*Arlington St. and Gordon St.*

Playground Equipment

Bates Road*Off Hollis St.*

Playground Equipment

Barbieri School*Dudley Rd.*

Playground Equipment

Brophy School*Pleasant St.*

Playground Equipment , soccer

Bowditch Field*Union Ave.*

Playground Equipment, Lighted Baseball, (4) Lighted Tennis Courts, Lighted Football, Lighted Outdoor Basketball, 3/4 Mile Jogging Area, Track, Fitness Course with (20)

Exercise Stations, Stadium Seating

Butterworth Park*Grant St. and Bishop St.*

Playground Equipment, (4) Lighted Tennis Courts

Cameron School*Elm Street*

Soccer

Carter*Dudley Rd. (in Long's Field Complex)*

Baseball (Little League)

Charlotte Dunning School*Frost St.*

Playground Equipment

Cushing Memorial Park*Dudley Rd.*

Playground Equipment

Danforth Park*Danforth St.*

Playground Equipment

Furber*Fairbanks Rd.*

Playground Equipment, Baseball (Little League)

Hemenway School*Water St.*

Playground Equipment

Juniper Hill School*Upper Jocelyn Rd.*

Playground Equipment

King School*Water St.*

Playground Equipment

Long's Complex*Dudley Rd. (next to Keefe Tech)*

Lighted Softball, Lighted Baseball Little League, Outdoor Lighted Basketball, Football, Soccer

Mary Dennison Park*Beaver St.*

(2) Softball Fields (one lighted), Baseball, Football, Soccer, (2) Outdoor Basketball Courts, Playground Equipment

Mason Park*Maple St. and Franklin St.*

Playground Equipment

McCarthy School*Flagg Drive*

Playground Equipment

Merloni*Fountain St. (in Long's Field Complex)*

Baseball (Little League)

Mt. Wayte*Chautauqua Ave.*

Playground Equipment

Musterfield*Guadalcanal Road*

Soccer

Oakvale*Burbank Cir., off Hadley Rd.*

Playground Equipment, Baseball (Little League)

Potter Road School*Potter Rd.*

Playground Equipment, Baseball (Little League)

Reardon Park*Brownlea Rd., off Old Conn. Path*

Playground Equipment, Baseball (Little League)

South Field*Guadalcanal Rd. (at end)*

Softball, Soccer, Lacrosse

Stapleton School*Elm St.*

Playground Equipment

Temple Street Playground*Temple St.*

Playground Equipment

Tusoni

Dudley Rd. (in Long's Field Complex) Baseball (Little League)

Victory Field*Auburn St.*

Home of Framingham United Soccer Club

Walsh Middle School*Brook St.*

Playground Equipment, (4) Lighted Tennis Courts

Winch Park*"A" St.*

Playground Equipment, (6) Lighted Tennis Courts, Baseball, Softball, Football, Soccer, Outdoor Lighted Basketball

Woodfield*Sloane Dr. and Gregory Rd.*

Playground Equipment

Woodrow Wilson School*Beaver St. and Leland St.*

Playground Equipment

READY-FOR-SCHOOL CHECKLIST

The following checklist, although not exhaustive, can help to guide you as you prepare your child for school. It's best to look at the items on the list as goals toward which to aim. They should be accomplished, as much as possible, through everyday routines or by enjoyable activities that you've planned with your child. If your child lags behind in some areas, don't worry. Remember that children grow and develop at different rates.

Good Health and Physical Well-Being

My child:

- Eats a balanced diet
- Gets plenty of rest
- Receives regular medical and dental care
- Has had all the necessary immunizations
- Runs, jumps, plays outdoors and does other activities that help develop his/her large muscles and provide exercise
- Does puzzles, scribbles, colors, paints and does other activities that help develop his/her small muscles

Social and Emotional Preparation

My child:

- Is learning to explore and try new things
- Is learning to work well alone and to do many tasks for him/herself
- Has many opportunities to be with other children and is learning to cooperate with them
- Is curious and is motivated to learn
- Is learning to finish tasks
- Is learning to use self-control
- Can follow simple instructions
- Helps with family chores

Language and General Knowledge

My child:

- Has many opportunities to talk and listen
- Is read to every day
- Has access to books and other reading materials
- Is learning about print and books
- Has his television viewing monitored by an adult
- Is encouraged to ask questions
- Is encouraged to solve problems
- Has opportunities to notice similarities and differences
- Is encouraged to sort and classify things
- Is learning to write his/her name and address
- Is learning to count and plays counting games
- Is learning to identify and name shapes and colors
- Has opportunities to draw, listen to and make music and to dance
- Has opportunities to get first-hand experiences to do things in the world --to see and touch objects, hear new sounds, smell and taste foods and watch things move

US Department of Education: www.ed.gov/parents/earlychild/ready/preschool/part_pg14.html

For the record

Fill in YOUR child's information and post in a handy location:

Child's Bus Number/Route _____ Bus Stop: _____

Transportation Office: 508-626-9179

Child's School: _____

School Address: _____

Classroom No: _____ Classroom Teacher's name: _____

School Office:(508) _____

Absentee Line:(508) _____

School Nurse: (508) _____

Teacher contact information: _____

Parent Teacher Conference appointments:

Fall _____

Spring _____

“Specials” schedule: (don't forget sneakers on gym days!)

Other Notes: (Early release days, School events, celebrations, PTO meetings etc.)

Be sure to notify the school of any changes in home and work, telephone numbers, addresses and email, so the school can reach you in an emergency. Cell phones, too!

Special thanks to our collaborating partners that include: the Framingham Public Schools, early childhood program providers and educators, community agencies, advocacy organizations and families.



The Early Childhood Alliance of Framingham does not endorse any one program. Our purpose is to provide educational and resource information only. For a comprehensive listing of programs go to: www.eec.state.ma.us/ChildCareSearch/EarlyEduMap.aspx

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

The Framingham Public Schools do not discriminate based on race, color, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnic or national origin, disability, veteran's status, or any other status protected by law. Any concern related to the implementation of this policy may be addressed directly to the building Principal or the Superintendent of Schools (508-626-9117). The Boston Office of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination is located at One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108.