

THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Neighborhood Villages



WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Greetings and welcome to our wonderful Neighborhood! We are delighted to share the latest summer edition of our monthly Neighborhood Newsletter. It is filled with current events and educational insights that will keep you well-informed about our vibrant education community. We are thrilled to inform you about the fantastic changes that Neighborhood Villages has undergone, and we invite you to be part of them.

Hopefully, you will find this newsletter informative and enjoyable, and we eagerly await your participation and feedback. Thank you for being an integral part of our flourishing community!

Neighborhood Community of Practice Session

Our next Operation Manager and Family Navigator COP will be:

Date: Thursday, August 30, 2023

Location: Epiphany School,
Conference Room

Time: 1pm-3pm

Note: Lunch will be provided



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



Alina Lopez Thomas



Isabella Torres

We're excited to announce that Neighborhood Villages is growing! We have two fantastic new team members joining us - Alina Lopez Thomas as Senior Director of the Neighborhood and Isabella Torres as Program Coordinator of the Neighborhood. They'll both be working closely with the Operation Managers and Family Navigators to help build an amazing early education system for children and families.


Welcome to the team, Alina and Isabella!

NEW FAMILY NAVIGATOR

For the past 13 years, Taylor has dedicated her career to Early Childhood Education. Prior to becoming a Family Navigator, she worked in classrooms, interacting directly with children and their families. Two years ago, Taylor discovered her passion for family engagement and support, and has since pursued this field. In September 2023, she will begin her role as Family Support Coordinator at Nurtury, eager to continue serving her community and embark on this new adventure as a Family Navigator.

Let's all give Taylor a warm welcome and celebratory congratulations on here New role!!



 Taylor Connolly
Nurtury Early Education



Neighborhood Villages

CITY OF BOSTON- LET IT ROLL INITIATIVE

The City of Boston launched its "Let it Roll" Biking program at Almont Park in Mattapan on July 19th, with Mayor Michelle Wu and the Office of Early Childhood leading the way. We're proud to be involved in this initiative alongside the Highland Foundation and other organizations. Our Neighborhood Villages team coordinated site instruction and bike delivery at four Neighborhood Programs, including the Ellis Learning Center, Horizons for Homeless, East Boston Social Centers, and the Epiphany Early Learning Center. We're confident that this program is an exceptional learning opportunity for children, and we're excited to support the City of Boston's endeavors. *Pictures feature: Mayor Michelle Wu community children and riders; Lauren Cook, with Sarah Siegel Muncey and Kristin McSwain.*





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TEACHING AND LEARNING TODDLER CURRICULUM

The Toddler Curriculum is a collaborative effort involving all five Neighborhood Schools. We are excited to announce the expansion of our curriculum program with the addition of eight new classrooms, bringing the total to 25 across the Neighborhood. Approximately 200 children are currently using the curriculum. We are pleased to report that the writing phase of the curriculum has been completed, and we will now focus on the revision stage to ensure that it meets the highest standards of excellence. For more information contact our Director of Teaching and Learning Pamela Thompson at pthompson@neighborhoodvillages.org

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT
GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS
WITH INFANT AND TODDLER
DOWNLOAD AND FIND
USEFUL FAMILY
INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION**

**[CLICK HERE FOR MORE
INFORMATION](#)**

There are five areas essential to your child's healthy development. Find more important learning experiences for your child on the following pages in the **Massachusetts Early Learning Standards for Infants and Toddlers**, downloadable from the Early Education and Care website: www.eec.org/mec

Toddlers

- 1. Social-Emotional Development 18-30 to 36
- 2. Language and Communication Development 24-30 to 36
- 3. Cognitive Development 24-30 to 36
- 4. Physical Health and Motor Skills 24-30 to 36
- 5. Approaches to Learning 24-30 to 36

Talk to me! **Wonder together with your child...**

You foster the foundation of brain development and learning during the first 3 years of your child's life.

Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care
Massachusetts Early Childhood Curriculum Framework

Things You Can Do with Your Baby Activities for Language and Communication Development

- Listening** Listen closely with your baby to sounds and words around. What do you hear?
- Imitating** Imitate your baby's sounds and actions. They imitate you, too!
- Playing** Use everyday objects to make your child to play with you. Use your own hands to play.
- Reading** Read to your child. Read a book.
- Sensory** Use words for all the things your child can see, hear, touch, and smell. How do you feel when you touch it?

Things You Can Do with Your Toddler Activities for Language and Communication Development

- Conversing** Talk to him. Talk about what you are doing and what your toddler is doing. Use words your toddler can hear.
- Questioning** Ask your child questions to encourage further thinking, expand play, and make observations. How do you make those toys?
- Creating and Problem-solving** Model your child's curiosity. Ask your child to explain how things work and predict what is going to happen. What do you think will happen if you put the animal blocks here?
- Singing, Rhyming, Chanting, Dancing** Use your voice and body to different ways to actively involve, excite, and delight. Sing, chant, rhyme, dance, and more!
- Pretending** Model and encourage pretend play. Use words to describe what your child is doing. Who are you today? Where are you going?
- Engaging** Give your toddler jobs to do. Help your child through the steps to complete the task. Do you think the ball will bounce around 10 times?

September is National Literacy Month. Get your favorite books ready!



Child Care Advocacy Guide



OUR CHILD CARE SYSTEM IN MASSACHUSETTS IS BROKEN

- **Families** struggle to find and afford care. In Massachusetts, families pay as much as 50 percent of their household income for private infant care.
- **Educators** can't afford to stay in the field because their pay is so low. More than 15% of child care workers in MA live below the poverty line.
- **Child care providers** struggle to pay educators more than minimum wage and keep their businesses afloat, even with high tuition rates.

WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR

- 1. Comprehensive Child Care Reform:** We're fighting for a high-quality early education and care system that is equitable, affordable, and accessible for ALL families.
- 2. A Fully Funded Child Care System:** We believe that early education and care is a public good and must be funded as one.
- 3. A System That Works For Everyone:** We want to ensure that all families have access to high-quality early education and care and that requires building a system that works — for families, educators and providers.

LEARN MORE AND JOIN OUR FIGHT!



HOW WE'RE GETTING IT DONE

1. Enacting Legislation:

Neighborhood Villages supports the passage of legislation that would:

- Make care more affordable for ALL Massachusetts families.
- Create a sustainable funding source for quality care
- Promote increased compensation for early educators.

2. Funding Child Care in the Massachusetts State Budget:

We are fighting for sustained and increased public funding for key elements of the Commonwealth's early education and care sector.

3. Building a Better Child Care System through:

- Increasing income eligibility for families applying for public child care financial assistance.
- Reducing barriers to family ability to apply for and obtain child care financial assistance.
- Raising the child care subsidy reimbursement rate for providers.
- Making public, direct-to-provider operations grants permanent.
- Sustained funding for training and professional development programs for Massachusetts' early educators.
- Development of an alternative methodology for calculating the true cost of providing high-quality child care.

CHILD CARE ADVOCACY GUIDE

We are all in this together! We are glad you are here!

Neighborhood Villages envisions a future in which all families have access to affordable, high-quality early education and care. In service of this vision, we advocate for early education and care policy reform and implement innovative, scalable solutions that address the biggest challenges facing early education and care providers and the families who rely on them.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Thank you for joining our Neighborhood Newsletter community! We appreciate your contributions and encourage you to share any upcoming program news and highlights with us. Our monthly newsletter is eagerly anticipated by all, so if you have content for the next edition, please send it to athomas@neighborhoodvillages.org at least two weeks prior to publication. We can't wait to see what you have in store!



Stay Tuned for the September Newsletter

The Neighborhood is a digital newsletter by Neighborhood Villages