

# CCC Newsletter

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*The mission of Concord Children's Center is to cultivate an intimate, welcoming community where children develop respectful relationships and inquisitive minds, build confidence in their individual gifts, and are engaged, prepared and inspired to learn*

May/June 2019

## Calendar

|                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| May 21            | Ripley Picnic                       |
| <b>May 27</b>     | <b>Holiday – CCC Closed</b>         |
| May 30            | West Concord Picnic at Rideout      |
| <b>June 12</b>    | CCC Annual Meeting                  |
| <b>June 19</b>    | Last day of School Year Program     |
| <b>June 20-21</b> | <b>CCC Closed Professional Days</b> |
| <b>June 24</b>    | First Day of Summer Program         |
| <b>July 24</b>    | All School Summer Picnic            |

## Mark Your Calendar !

**CCC Summer Picnic at The  
Ripley Playscape  
Wednesday, July 24, 6 PM**



**STOW STREET  
BLOCK PARTY**

SATURDAY, MAY 18TH  
11:00AM TO 2:00PM  
STOW STREET/EMERSON FIELD

**FREE COMMUNITY EVENT**

TOUCH A TRUCK ☆ INFLATABLES ☆ MUSIC ☆  
FOOD ☆ GAMES ☆ LOCAL VENDORS ☆ CRAFTS ☆

FEATURING THE 1ST ANNUAL CONCORD CYCLING CELEBRATION

WWW.CONCORDREC.COM

## CCC is bringing Loose Parts - Find us at the Block Party!

### What are Loose Parts and why ?

From: Loose Parts Play A Toolkit by Casey and Robinson

*Loose parts are: natural resources - straw, mud and pine cones building materials and tools - planks, nails, hammers, scrap materials - old tyres, off-cuts of guttering and, most essentially, random found objects, available for children to use to create play.*

*Loose parts create richer environments for children to play, giving them the resources they need to do what they need to do. A stick, for example, may become a fishing rod near real or imaginary water, a spurtle in a mud kitchen, a tool to nudge a football that is stuck in a tree; it can be thrown, floated, snapped, pinged, bent, hidden, added to a pile, burnt, tied to something else, split, catapulted or discarded. Static, unchanging play spaces do little for children whereas environments which can be manipulated, where things move and can be moved open worlds of possibility.*

*Children need environments they can manipulate and where they can invent, construct, evaluate and modify their own constructions and ideas through play. They require opportunities to develop ownership of the environment where they play. The introduction of loose parts such as scrap materials, sand and water increases the possibilities for children to engage in these types of behaviours even in 'artificial' environments, outside or in. Early childhood theorists and pioneers over several centuries have been staunch advocates of the benefits of young children playing outside, accessing mud, sand, water and spending frequent time in nature. There is a long-standing tradition of using household items for play, using tools for gardening and woodworking, and having 'tinkering' tables where children can experiment. For the very youngest children, heuristic play offers treasure baskets of simple objects such as wooden spools and cotton reels for babies to explore with their hands and mouths. Children learn best when they are able to play freely.*

# How Outdoor Play Prepares Children for Academic Success

A Community Presentation by Angela Hanscom, MOT, OTR/L



**For Parents and  
Educators**

**FREE GENERAL  
ADMISSION**

Educator's Certificates-Small fee  
Register on Eventbrite

**May 21, 2019**

**6:30-8:30PM**

Congregation Beth Elohim  
133 Prospect Street, Acton Ma

Numerous studies suggest that unrestricted outdoor play is fundamental to supporting healthy development in children. Children spend large portions of their time in school. Integrating sensory rich outdoor play experiences into this central aspect of a child's day can have a transformative impact on both academic and social success. In this session, Angela Hanscom, the author of *Balanced and Barefoot* and founder of TimberNook, will discuss how the TimberNook program is already benefitting children in schools. She will describe the fundamental principles of this innovative approach and how to advocate for this type of program in your school.

*Presenter:* Angela Hanscom is a pediatric occupational therapist and the founder of TimberNook – an award-winning nature-based program that has gained international popularity. She holds a master's degree in occupational therapy, and an undergraduate degree in kinesiology (the study of movement) with a concentration in health fitness. Angela's book, [\*Balanced & Barefoot: How Unrestricted Outdoor Play Makes for Strong, Confident, and Capable Children\*](#), (New Harbinger Press, 2016) discusses the effects of restricted movement and lack of outdoor playtime on overall sensory and motor development in children.

Presented by The ABHL Early Childhood Council with community support from; The Acton Boxborough United Way, Acton Boxborough Family Network, The Carol Huebner Early Childhood Program, Minuteman Arc, Acton Cooperative School, The Acton Barn Cooperative Preschool, Village Nursery School, ITC, Mount Cavalry Christian Preschool, CBE Early Learning Center, Bright Horizons at Boxborough and The Silver Unicorn Bookstore.

Tickets available on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-outdoor-play-prepares-children-for-academic-success-tickets-52243352273>

Free to the general public-professional development certificates available for a small fee. Donations accepted to the Scholarship Project.

# The Kathy Reticker Forum

FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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Please join us on **JUNE 6th** for a screening of the film:



On Thursday, June 6th, **The Kathy Reticker Forum for Children and Families** will feature a screening of the film *No Small Matter*, a ground-breaking and nationally acclaimed documentary that addresses the question *“Why, when the importance of quality early care is so widely accepted and known, do we continue to fail so many children?”* We hope you will join us to hear powerful stories and stunning truths about the human capacity for early intelligence and the potential for quality early care and education to benefit America’s social and economic future.

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**TIME:** Doors open at 6:00pm  
The film will begin at 6:30pm

**PLACE:** The Richard & Nancy Donahue Family Academic Arts Center  
240 Central Street, Lowell, MA

**PARKING:** Early Garage  
135 Middlesex Street, Lowell

Light refreshments will be served.

*Admission is free and the event is open to all.*

Concord Children’s Center is Co-Sponsoring the third Kathy Reticker Forum for Children and Families.

*No Small Matter* is a ground-breaking and nationally acclaimed documentary addressing the question *“Why, when the importance of quality early care is so widely accepted and known, do we continue to fail so many children?”* The film deploys powerful stories and stunning truths about the human capacity for early intelligence and the potential for quality early care and education to benefit America’s social and economic future.

The Kathy Reticker Forum for Children and Families

was established in 2016 to increase awareness and advocacy for children and families in honor of Kathy Reticker, former Executive Director of Concord Children’s Center and a beloved leader in the field of early childhood care and education and the non-profit community. The Kathy Reticker Forum recently awarded its second annual scholarships to students at Middlesex Community College and graduating seniors at Lowell High School pursuing studies in early childhood education.

For information about the screening please contact Pat Nelson at 978-369-3747 or [executive@concordchildrenscenter.org](mailto:executive@concordchildrenscenter.org).



**Willard Carnival**

Please join us for Willard Carnival!  
A Willard PTG Sponsored Event

Sunday, June 9, 2019  
12-4pm  
Willard Elementary  
Rain or shine

Face Painting  
Bounce House - Music  
Carnival Games - Prizes

**FUN for the WHOLE FAMILY !**

Popcorn - Frozen Treats  
Pizza - Cake Dance  
Much Much More

Thank you to our Sponsors

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Willard Elementary School  
185 Powder Mill Road, Concord MA 01742



Don't miss the celebration...

**SAVE THE DATE FOR  
RIVERFEST 2019! JUNE 22 &  
23, 2019**

## RIVERFEST IS COMING UP THIS JUNE!

Celebrate *your* Wild and Scenic River at RiverFest, June 22nd and 23rd—a weekend of free activities, from Lowell to Framingham, celebrating our local Wild and Scenic Rivers.

With free walks, paddles, talks, explorations, music, and family-friendly adventures led by local organizations, there is something for everyone.

Centers of activity this year will once again be:

**Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge on Sat June**

**22nd**, with family fishing, arts and crafts, hotdogs available through Friends of the Assabet, and other fun activities.

On **Sunday visit the Old Manse in Concord** for a full afternoon of kids activities, tours, music, and the now-famous Family Cardboard Boat Race.

For Information: <http://sudbury-assabet-concord.org/riverfest2019>