Preparation for Kindergarten Registration

Brockton Public Schools is preparing for Kindergarten Registration which will begin in February of 2016. All Brockton resident children born in 2011 are eligible for free, full day public school kindergarten. Informational sessions, Kindergarten Showcases, have been held across the city. Please check the Parents' Academy information on page 7 to see when the next one will be. Below please find informational brochures in multiple languages. These brochures have important information as to required materials needed for Kindergarten registration.

This year, you can find some information to help you, your child, and your family prepare for K. Please see Page 2 for some fun ideas.

Kindergarten Registration—English

Kindergarten Registration—French

Kindergarten Registration—Portuguese

Kindergarten Registration—Spanish
How can so much fun get my child ready for school?

PLAY

How can so much fun get my child ready for school?

Playing games is the perfect way for children to exercise their bodies and their social skills. Games are fun, but they also teach children to take turns, share with others, follow rules, build physical strength, and use the large muscles in their body for hopping, jumping, walking, and balancing. These are skills they will use every day in kindergarten.

Try these at home!

- Remember when. Think back to the games you learned as a child. Share your stories of playing childhood games. Teach your child the rules, and play them together!
- Obstacle course. Create an indoor obstacle course using small furniture like kitchen chairs, a stool or sofa cushions. Direct your child to climb "over" the stool, "under" the chair, "around" the corner, and so on through your home.
- Games for a gang. Play outdoor games like "Red Light, Green Light", "Tag" or "Red Rover".

Things to say:

- "You're taking turns!" Describe behavior you want to encourage.
- "Keep trying!" Encourage your child when she needs it.
- "Wow, you're working so hard!"
- "You can do it!"
- "Way to go!" Applaud every effort.
- "I knew you could do it!"

Read All About It:

- Oh, the things you can do that are good for you! All About Staying Healthy (Cat in the Hat's Learning Library) by Tish Rabe
- Franklin Plays the Game by Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark
Brockton Public Library

Library Locations

Brockton Public Library consists of the main, downtown library and two branches.

Main Library 304 Main St, Brockton, MA 02301—508-580-7890
West Branch 540 Forest Ave., Brockton, MA 02301—508-580-7894
East Branch 54 Kingman St., Brockton, MA 02301-508-580-7892

Tuesday, December 8
Cloudy with a Chance of Fun 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Ages 3-8
Food falls from the sky in the book, “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs” by Judi Barrett. Enjoy a different twist on this funny tale along with other stories, songs, and crafts about the weather during this family story night at the Main Library. Please sign-up in the Children’s Room or call 508-580-7890 x301

Wednesdays
Story Hour 10:30-11:15 a.m.
Ages 3-7
A weekly story/craft program will be held at the Main Library. Please sign-up in the Children’s Room or call 508-580-7890 x301. Ends December 9.

Wednesday, December 9
West Branch Walk-In Crafts 2:00-7:00 p.m.
Ages 4 and up
Children may visit the West Branch to work on a craft project anytime between 2:00-7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 10
Time for Twos 10:30-11:15 a.m.
Age 2
A program for two-year-olds and their parent/caregiver that includes stories, nursery rhymes, fingerplays, songs and simple activities. It will be held at the Main Library. Ends December 10.

Thursdays
East Branch Walk-In Crafts 3:00-7:00 p.m.
Ages 4 and up
Children may visit the East Branch to work on a craft project anytime between 3:00-7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 30
Family Movie - Arthur Christmas - rated PG - 98 minutes 2:30 p.m.
Bring your whole family as we watch a terrific family-friendly movie at the Main Library. We’ll provide the snack and beverage...you don’t even have to buy tickets! Please sign up in the Children’s Room or call 508-580-7890 x301. With all the billions of toys that Santa delivers, one child is missed! Santa’s son, Arthur, is on a mission to deliver a present to this child with the help of Grandsanta, an elf and some untrained reindeer.
Wonder Partners

Come learn and play with us! Our Wonder Partners are here to invite you and your child to join in our weekly themes and fun activities. Our weekly themes will build your child’s sense of wonder and playfulness as they engage with our trained Wonder Partners in exciting art, science, and nature activities! Come and make memories with us! Upcoming themes:

**Helping Hands - December 8-12**

Children will join our Wonder Partners in making gifts to share with local senior citizens to brighten their holidays!

**Holiday Houses - December 15-19**

Build and decorate an elf house, or an igloo or a frosty castle using various recycled materials. You can make a small one to take home and help the Wonder Partners make a really big one too!

**Family New Years Party - Thursday, December 31 from 10:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.**

Members of the Children’s Museum in Easton, show your membership car and get one admission FREE! $10 per person. Awesome Robb will have shows at - 11 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.
The Confetti Blast will take place at NOON, 2:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. For more information, [click here!](#)

**Exploring Music: a drop-in program on Wednesdays from 10:00-10:45 a.m.**

Music is known to build your baby or toddler’s brain! This popular program offers a variety of creative musical activities including singing, rhythm-making, dramatic interpretations, listening and learning about different forms and styles of music and lots of movement!
Museums—Fuller Craft Museum

Fuller Craft Museum, 455 Oak Street, Brockton, MA 02301, 508.588.6000

Current Exhibitions:

Art as Quilt: Transitions in Contemporary Textile Media
October 3-January 17, 2016

Art as Quilt is a juried exhibition of contemporary textile media that explores the subject of art as quilt. The word quilt implies a traditional 3-layered stitched approach but artists are encouraged to explore new and innovative ways to push beyond these boundaries through the use of techniques and materials. This exhibit will consist of works that represent unique approaches and interpretations of the theme and help illustrate the diversity of styles, techniques, and materials being used by the Studio Art Quilt Associates members.

holidaySHOP @ Fuller Craft
November 21-January 10, 2016

We expand our regular museum shop throughout an entire gallery and fill it with a superb selection of handcrafted, one-of-a-kind gifts for everyone on your list. Elegant winter wear, lovely jewelry, ceramics, children’s toys, catalogs, gift certificates, and more.

Toothpick World: From Sliver to Skyline
December 19, 2015-March 27, 2016

Utilizing a toolkit of just toothpicks and Elmer’s Glue, New York’s Stan Munro uses his ingenuity to construct precise 1:164 scale reproductions of architectural masterworks and world-renowned structures. While having decades of interest in the craft, Munro dedicated himself solely to his art approximately 10 years ago, and has had his work featured in numerous venues in the United States and abroad. Toothpick Town is a subset of his masterworks, including iconic American buildings such as the Empire State Building and the White House, while also incorporating internationally celebrated structures such as the Taj Mahal, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, and Eiffel Tower. See Stan and his work at: http://www.toothpickworld.com
ABCs of GOOD PARENTING

Accept your child as the wonderful person he or she is.
Be a good role model in all you say and do.
Communicate respectfully and listen attentively.
Discipline fairly, firmly and with love.
Encourage good eating habits.
Find ways to get and stay fit together.
Give chores that build responsibility.
Help your child learn healthy ways to manage anger and stress.
Instill respect for people and property.
Join parent organizations at school.
Keep your promises or don’t make them.
Laugh together and enjoy each other’s company.
Make family rules and enforce them with consistency.
Never use physical force on your child.
Offer your help whenever it’s needed.
Praise your child for achievements as well as for efforts.
Quickly stop your child from any harmful activities.
Read together often and make reading fun.
Show patience and remember nobody is perfect.
Teach health and safety rules and good character traits.
Use every opportunity to say “I love you” and show your love.
Value your child’s thoughts and opinions.
Wait until you cool down before disciplining your child.
Excite your child about the value of education.
You make a difference in your child’s life, so parent with pride!
Zero in on practicing good parenting skills every day.
Evening Workshops: doors open at 6 p.m. for registration. Programs operate from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Family Nights: doors open at 6 p.m. for registration. Programs operate from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Morning Workshops at Gilmore & Barrett Russell Schools: doors open at 9 a.m. for registration and programs operate from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

PreK Students are welcome to attend the morning workshops with their parents. Literacy activities will be provided for the children by BPS staff.

Free day care is provided for the Evening Workshops.

Pre-Registration for Parents' Academy programs helps us plan events and services. In an effort to go green, we have limited the number of printed fliers going home with students. Please review the monthly response forms.
BUILDING Little Hands to Build Brains

Little hands need to be strong to hold writing tools and form letters clearly. Here’s how to build that strength while turning everyday moments into Brain Building moments, too!

**Build writing muscles with a “workout.”**
- Squeeze balls of play dough.
- Count how many “reps” you both can do.

**Snap! Crumple! Pop!**
Make some noise while you build muscles.
- Little hands love to snap green beans or shell peas.
- Tear and crumple different kinds of paper.
- Pop the bubble wrap that comes in a package.
- Talk about all the different sounds you’ve made and how noisy your hands can be.

**Have cutting edge fun.**
Cutting paper, play dough, foam, fabric or other materials (with child-sized safety scissors) strengthens hand muscles and develops hand-eye coordination.
- Start by practicing opening and closing the scissors.
- Ask how it feels to cut a piece of paper.
- Does it feel different from cutting play dough or foam?

**Follow a scissor trail!**
Draw straight lines, swirly paths or zig-zaggy trails and cut along them with scissors. Build up to more complicated trails or patterns or thicker papers such as grocery bags or cereal boxes.

Tell us how you used these ideas or share some of your own at:
Facebook BrainBuildingInProgress
BrainBuildingInProgress.org

United Way
BHS 2015 Holiday Concert

Date: Tuesday, December 15 and Wednesday, December 16 2015
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: BHS Nelson Auditorium, 470 Forest Avenue

A South Shore seasonal favorite, the Brockton High School Holiday Concert is one of the hottest tickets in town. A bevy of bands and choruses will take the stage to provide concertgoers with a wide selection of holiday favorites, and a peek at some of the newest in festive fare. Celebrate the season with friends, neighbors and our spectacular young musicians.

CELEBRATE THE SEASON AT THE
BHS HOLIDAY CONCERT DECEMBER 15th & 16th

Tickets cost $3 per person for general admission, and $5 for those who wish to give to The Enterprise Helping Hands Fund, a holiday program sponsored by The Enterprise newspaper that benefits the needy in Southeastern Massachusetts. Tickets are available at the Brockton High School main office, 470 Forest Avenue between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on weekdays. The concerts will be held Tuesday, December 15th and Wednesday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the Brockton High School Auditorium. A snow date of Thursday, December 17th has also been set. For more information, please contact the Brockton High School Music Department at (508) 580-7656.
Pictures with Santa Claus and Toy Drive

Come have your picture taken with Santa Claus
December 9, 2015 from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM
Buckley Performing Arts Center at Massasoit Community College.

If you’re able to bring a toy for a needy child, or a non-perishable food item for a local food pantry, please do.

Free • all welcome
PICTURES WITH SANTA CLAUS!
Hosted by
State Representative Michelle DuBois

Event info:
Wednesday, December 9th
5pm – 8pm
Buckley Performing Arts Center
Massasoit Community College
1 Massasoit Blvd, Brockton
Holiday music. Yummy sweets.
Hot cocoa & Festive cheer.
For more info call Becca in the office of State Rep DuBois: (617) 722-2011

& TOY DRIVE
If you’re able to bring a toy for a needy child, or a non-perishable food item for a local food pantry, please do. Donations may also be dropped off by December 9th: Welcome Desk, Massasoit Administration Building
1 Massasoit Boulevard, Brockton Massachusetts
Toys will be distributed to local needy families via the Brockton Police Department

Co-hosted by
State Senator Michael Brady
State Representative Claire Cronin
City Councilor Paul Studenski
City Councilor Dennis DeNapoli
The Womens’ Auxilliary & VFW Post 1046
Haitian Community Partners
From the Mayor's Office - December Events

Holiday Sale - December 12
Holiday Sale for Brockton Library Foundation on Saturday, December 12, 2015 from 9:30-3:30 at the Arnold Swartz Gift Shop, 304 Main St (inside Historic Brockton Library). Parking on White Avenue in lot. New crafts, books and more. Great gift ideas.

Citizenship Clinic - December 12
Are you ready to become a U.S. citizen? Get help applying for citizenship. The MIRA Coalition and the Family Center of Brockton are offering a free citizenship workshop. Join our citizenship workshop for FREE naturalization information and application assistance! December 12th, 2015 - 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon at 1367 Main Street. TO PRE-REGISTER: Call The Family Center @ 508.857.0272

Brockton Symphony Holiday Pops - December 13
Don’t miss our much-anticipated annual Holiday Pops Concert! The Holidays are quickly approaching...and what would the holidays be without music? The Brockton Symphony Orchestra has prepared for you a special gift: the gift of music. Our gift will appeal to everyone’s soul, and it will enrich your holiday celebration. This year we offer a selection of light classical (pops) music and the most popular holiday songs in a meticulously “wrapped” presentation. Lift your holiday spirit and revel in the joy, fellowship, and fun as De. Emilian Badea leads the Symphony in joyous music from around the world! Featuring rich-toned mezzo-soprano, Margaret Lias, and Brockton’s own Louis F. Angelo School Chorus, directed by Susan Moscardelli-Zauner. For information, please visit brocktonsymphony.org or call 508-588-3841. Begins at 3:00 p.m.

Deck the Halls - Dec 15
Richard Hill, local organist, presents Christmas music for the Christ Church Pipe Organ Series. This Midday Music (begins at 12:15) offers a break in the day in peaceful surroundings. The events are monthly and free; donations are accepted for the church’s Organ Fund. Building is handicapped accessible. For information, email to organ@brocktonucc.org or call the church office at 508-586-3022.

Driscoll Gallery Exhibit - December 19
The Brockton Public Library along with Movimentu Shokanti will host the works of the late Dudu Rodrigues “As Obras Permanecem” with a reception on Saturday, December 19, 2015 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. inside the Driscoll Gallery, 304 Main Street (Brockton Main Library) with parking on White Ave. This event is free and open to the public and part of a larger exhibit from the Nela Barbosa Gallery on the island of Santiago, Cape Verde. For more information call 508-580-7890 ext 201 or email movimentushokanti@gmail.com
Early Learning from Zero To Three

Everyday Ways to Support Your Baby’s and Toddler’s Early Learning

Your baby is learning—about you, himself, and the world around him—from the moment he enters the world. The chart below gives you some ideas of the many ways you can support your child’s early learning through your everyday activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What’s Going On With Your Baby or Toddler</th>
<th>What You Can Do</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language and Communication</strong></td>
<td>• Watch and listen to see how your baby communicates what she is thinking and feeling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babies express their needs and feelings through sounds and cries, body movements, and facial expressions. Your baby will begin using words sometime around 1 year. By the time she is 3, she will be speaking in short (3-5 word) sentences.</td>
<td>• Repeat the sounds and words your child uses and have back-and-forth conversations.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thinking Skills</strong></td>
<td>• Read, sing, and tell stories. These are fun ways to help your child understand the meaning of new words and ideas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your child is learning how the world works by playing and exploring. Through play, babies and toddlers learn about how things work and how to be good problem-solvers.</td>
<td>• Talk about what you do together—as you play, do errands, or visit friends and family.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Self-Control</strong></td>
<td>• Encourage your child to explore toys in different ways—by touching, banging, stacking, shaking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over the first 3 years, your child is beginning to develop self-control—the ability to manage his feelings and actions in acceptable ways. He is also learning to wait, share, and work out problems with his friends.</td>
<td>• Turn everyday routines into playful learning moments. For example bath time is a chance to learn about ideas like sinking/floating and wet/dry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Self-Confidence</strong></td>
<td>• Follow your child’s interests. Children learn best through activities that excite them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your child is learning that she is a very special person; that she is loved, smart, fun, and capable. When children feel good about themselves, they are more confident and willing to take on new challenges.</td>
<td>• Ask your child questions that get him thinking as he nears age 3. For example, when reading a book together, ask Why do you think the girl is laughing?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Use words to help your child understand his feelings. You are really mad because we have to leave the park.</td>
<td>• Give choices to older toddlers. Would you like to read books before or after we brush teeth?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Give choices to older toddlers. Would you like to read books before or after we brush teeth?</td>
<td>• Stay calm when your child is upset. This helps him feel safe and get back in control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Comment on what your child does well. You found the button that makes the bear pop up!</td>
<td>• Help your child be a good problem-solver. Give her the support she needs to be successful without completely solving the problem for her.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Help your child be a good problem-solver. Give her the support she needs to be successful without completely solving the problem for her.</td>
<td>• Give your child the chance to do things for herself like pouring milk from a small plastic pitcher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Encourage your child to keep trying. You are working so hard to get the ball in the basket. Sometimes it takes lots of tries!</td>
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Visit [www.zerotothree.org/schoolreadiness](http://www.zerotothree.org/schoolreadiness) for more information on early learning and healthy development.

This handout was developed by ZERO TO THREE and made possible by the generous support of MetLife Foundation.

For the English/Spanish version, [click here](#).
Igloo Craft

DLTK's Holiday Crafts for Kids - www.dltk-holidays.com

Igloo Craft Contributed by Leanne Guenther

Materials: Styrofoam tray, Styrofoam cup, mini marshmallows, glue, scissors

Instructions:

• Cut the top half to one inch off the top of the cup. (A grown up may want to do this in preparation for the activity).

• Turn the cup upside down and glue it to the Styrofoam tray.

• Glue marshmallows around the base of the Styrofoam cup.

• Glue more rows of marshmallows around the cup until it is covered.

• Stack a few marshmallows to the side of the cup to make the door to the igloo.

Printable version of these instructions