

**AES**

**Educational  
Consulting**

# **2024 SPRING NEWS**

## **WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN OUR SPRING EDITION?**

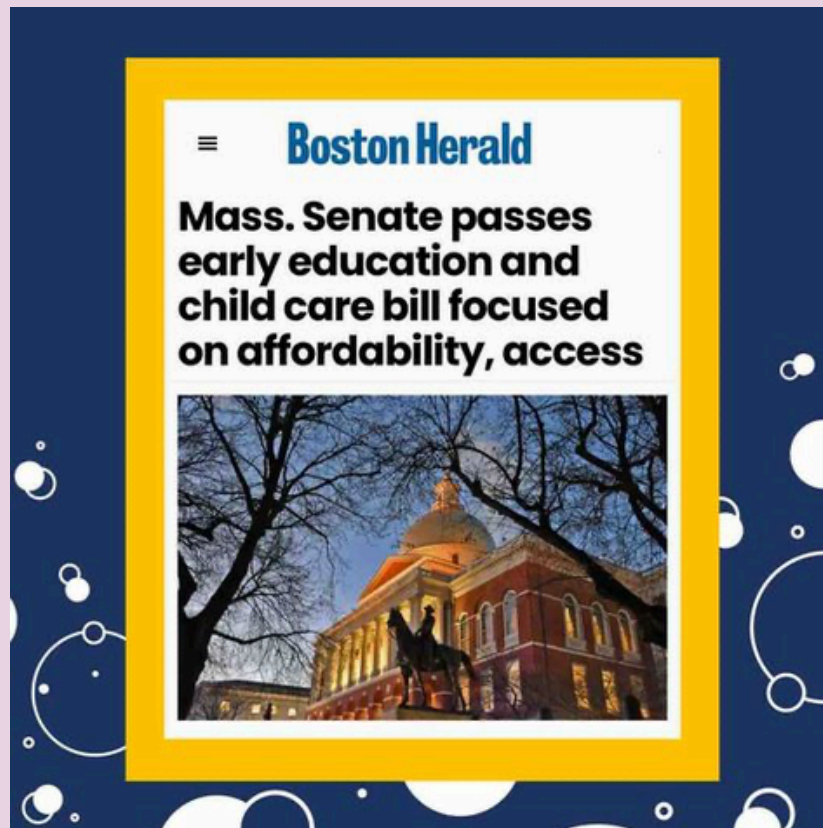
- **EXCITING STATE NEWS!**
- **LOTS OF FREE TRAININGS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVENTS!**
- **SHOUT OUT TO EDUCATORS AND ORGANIZATIONS!**
- **INFORMATION ON FREE COLLEGE COURSES & DEGREES IN EARLY EDUCATION!**

# IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD.....

The MA Senate passed the Early Ed Act, which helps to foster the Common Start vision of more affordable and accessible high-quality Early education and care.

Read more about it here: <https://www.bostonherald.com/.../mass-senate-passes.../>

#mapoli #childcarecrisis #CommonStartMA



There is still work to be done!

**PLEASE follow:**

Strategies for Children or Common Start Coalition and stay informed.

Your advocacy matters!

# FREE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP SERIES ON NATURE!

**TUESDAYS**  
60 mins  
**FREE!** April-June

## Outdoor Learning Spring Virtual Workshop Series!

**16 April**  
Wonders of Water: Practical Ideas and Resources for Educators

**23 April**  
Invasive Species and Action

**30 April**  
Developing a Sense of Place by Sparking Curiosity and Wonder

**21 Mayo - En Español**  
Recursos en español para aprender al aire libre

**28 May**  
Using Sit Spots and your Senses to Connect with Nature

**4 June**  
Métis Learning for the Summer Solstice

**OUTDOORLEARNINGSTORE.COM**

FREE Spring Virtual Workshops are now live, and ready for registration!

<https://outdoorlearningstore.com/workshops>

Each 60 min workshop comes complete with a certificate of attendance, access to the recording, discounts for outdoor learning tools & resources, and entry for some great prizes!

These 6 free workshops bring together 19 amazing presenters & partners:

- April 16: The Wonders of Water: Practical Ideas and Resources for Educators
- April 23: Invasive Species Education and Action
- April 30: Developing a Sense of Place by Sparking Curiosity and Wonder
- May 21: Recursos en español para aprender al aire libre
- May 28: Using Sit Spots and your Senses to Connect with Nature
- June 4: Métis Learning for the Summer Solstice



# FREE WEBINAR!

CAYL CATALYST WEBINAR SERIES ◦ VOLUME IV ◦ CHAPTER 1 ◦ EPISODE #36

## P O R T R A I T S

# of courage

Brave Leaders & Systems Change in ECE

**>> The Fight For Family Child Care**

**Featuring: Jessica Sager**

Co-founder  
Chief Executive Officer  
All Our Kin

**with special guests:**

**Jerletha McDonald**  
Family Child Care Consultant

**Sayda Martinez-Alvarado**  
The Education Trust

**and host:**

**Dr. Valora Washington**  
CEO and President  
The CAYL Institute

April 4, 2024  
4:00-5:00 PM EST

**Register at:**  
[tinyurl.com/CAYLcatalystApril4](https://tinyurl.com/CAYLcatalystApril4)

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CAYL.org

Join CAYL on April 4 @ 4 p.m. for Portraits of Courage: The Fight for Family Child Care featuring Jessica Sager

Family Child Care has always been a critical piece of the ECE landscape. Even so, there has always been a battle for FCC recognition within the profession as well as in public policy.

This month, we'll dive into the constant struggle with how FCC is funded, perceived, and supported as we highlight courageous leader Jessica Sager. As someone who has been a strong leader and advocate for FCC, Jessica has also faced the strain of being turned away and having doors closed. Jessica will share her brave story of fighting to move Family Child Care forward.

She will be joined by next-generation leaders who are supporting this movement.

Featuring:

- Jessica Sager - Co-founder & Chief Executive Officer, All Our Kin
- Jerletha McDonald - Family Child Care Consultant, Social Entrepreneur, National Speaker
- Sayda Martinez-Alvarado - Higher Education Policy Analyst, The Education Trust
- Host Dr. Valora Washington - President & CEO, The CAYL Institute

**[REGISTER HERE!](https://tinyurl.com/CAYLcatalystApril4)**



# FREE 2024 Climate Conference at MIT!



**K-12 Educators of All Disciplines, High School Students, select MIT Community Members: Join the Mass. Teachers Association Climate Action Network (MTA CAN), Earth Day Boston, and MIT CATE for the second annual K-12 Climate Action and Education Conference, focused on climate solutions, education, and action.**

**The day will center on workshops from community groups focused on justice, MIT offerings, the Mass. Youth Climate Coalition (MYCC), MTA CAN, and an exploration of MIT CATE's new high school climate curriculum (for all disciplines!). This interactive event hopes to inspire students, teachers, and MIT community members alike to further climate action and education.**

**A closing panel on climate solutions will feature MIT faculty and outside guests, with ample space for audience Q&A. Breaks between sessions will feature tables from: youth groups, teachers unions, MIT groups and labs, non-profits, community groups, and more.**

**[REGISTER HERE!](#)**

# FREE EVENT & ADMISSION



## Free Admission Day: 2024 Eclipse Celebration

Monday, April 8th  
Museum Open 12:00 - 5:00 pm  
Eclipse Time ~3:28 pm



## SCIENCE IS COOL!

Monday, April 8 -- A total solar eclipse is arcing across the country, and we're near its path!

To celebrate our closest approach to totality until 2079, we're breaking the rules and opening with FREE ADMISSION all afternoon.

Join us on Sundial Plaza with a chair, a blanket, or even a whole picnic as we watch the Moon cover the Sun. AND while you're here, explore extrasolar planets, build your own solar system, or head inside to the planetarium and investigate eclipses from beyond the atmosphere.

Stop by for an afternoon at the EcoTarium that will be out of this world!

More info: <https://ecotarium.org/event/2024-eclipse/>



# FREE-Great Webinar for School Aged Professionals



## Free Webinar

Multiplication Strategies

Don't have Math Stackers?

No problem! We will send a link to download our free Paper Math Stackers



Does teaching multiplication feel like a mountain too hard to climb? Join this FREE one-hour workshop where we dive into hands-on multiplication teaching techniques that the kiddos LOVE.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

# FREE EVENT



A whimsical afternoon at Salisbury's most beautiful farm, PETTENGILL FARM walk through lush gardens, an enchanted forest, and the serene marsh; it's an event like no other.

## ABOUT THE EVENT:

Join us at our eighth annual Fairy Gnome Discovery Walk at Pettengill Farm. The gems of the event are the 200+ Fairy and Gnome Homes peppered throughout a 1-mile wooded path that leads to the marsh and back. Homes are created by very talented professionals, families, school children, and local businesses. The event will have Fairy Tales read in the woods, live music, performances, FREE children's crafts, yummy food trucks serving up lunch for purchase.

Fairy Gnome Discovery Walk  
Pettengill Farm  
45 Ferry Road  
Salisbury, MA  
April 27 & 28

NO Rain Date / Rain or Shine  
Plenty of free parking.

[Get tickets click here](#)



# FREE WORKSHOP



## Join the Asperger/Autism Network and NPS Early Childhood Center

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**April 11, 2023 [7:30-8:30 pm on Zoom]**

**In Our Own Words: Our Family's Experience**

**May 25, 2023 [7:30-8:30 pm on Zoom]**

**Finding Your Community and Building a  
Connected Life**



Asperger Autism Workshop: In Our Own Words Our Family's Life Experience Join us for a presentation by an autistic adult and their parent. Hear from this family about their lived experience navigating diagnosis, disclosure, the school years, what it was like transitioning from childhood to young adulthood and more! Our presenters will share their reflections, insights and recommendations from their years of lived experience. Attendees will have an opportunity to hear stories from our presenters as well as ask their questions.

RSVP: [bit.ly/ECCpresents](https://bit.ly/ECCpresents)

Thank you Northampton Education Foundation (NEF) for funding this series!

# RISING STAR SHOUT OUT!

## MEET NAYELY AMARAT



My name is Nayely Amarat. I am a graduate of Burncoat High School in Worcester. I have been involved in early childhood since 2022. I currently work with preschool aged children and love developing and implementing meaningful curriculum and experiences to help them reach their milestones. I take pride in providing the right tools that will help prepare them for beyond the classroom. I am currently enrolled at Mount Wachusett Community College and I plan to further my education in the field by utilizing the ECE Grant that is being offered. As far as my future goals I am looking to obtain Lead Teacher certification and ultimately managing my own classroom, where I can continue to make an impact on early learning and development.



# Shout to Central Massachusetts Edward Street

## ABOUT EDWARD STREET

At Edward Street, we support young children by supporting the early educators and caregivers that serve them, and by advocating for policies that benefit children and families.

Our priority is high-quality care and education for all young children in Central Massachusetts.

We collaborate with community partners to develop effective programming and serve as an educational resource and training center for early educators. When challenges arise, we advocate for young children and families, locally and statewide, so that every child's needs are met.

## DAY OF PLAY FAMILY FESTIVAL Free celebration of play and learning!

Empty over-sized boxes delight young builders.

Now in its 13th year, Edward Street's Day of Play Family Festival is Saturday, September 14, 2024. Join us at Elm Park, Worcester for a day full of joy and play! [Rain date: September 28th]

Our FREE one-day festival features more than 60 fun, interactive activities across eight play areas which emphasize how young children learn through play. Held at Elm Park, this annual event attracts 5,000+ people. A companion monthly newsletter highlighting a dozen activities reaches more than 10,000 families in Central Massachusetts.

It takes a village to run an event of this size and we are able to offer the festival free of charge because of the generous support of local sponsors, community partners, and agencies who volunteer their time to make this day a success. Musical performances, art activities, an obstacle course, STEM and early literacy activities entertain participants large and small.

Website: <http://www.worcesterdayofplay.org>



# ORGANIZATION SHOUT OUTS

AES would like to recognize

- Clarendon Early Education Services, Inc.
- Dedham Country House Preschool
- Ayer Kiddie Depot

for their extraordinary impact that it has on the field of early education. Their dedication to fostering innovation, nurturing young minds, and setting unparalleled standards of excellence not only elevates the quality of early childhood education but also serves as inspiration for educators and organizations alike. The field of early education is incredibly fortunate to have these leaders within the field. Their commitment to creating inclusive, engaging, and empowering learning environments is a testament to their visionary approach and unwavering passion for making a difference in the lives of educators, children, and families. Thank you for allowing AES the opportunity to contribute to your Professional development.

**Please click on the links below to visit their sites and meet their amazing staff and educators!**



**AYER KIDDIE DEPOT**



# Spring Convening

Wednesday, May 8, 2024 | Polar Park, Worcester, MA

An in-person gathering for friends, partners, and supporters  
of The Early Childhood Agenda



Spring Convening of The Early Childhood Agenda at Polar Park!

May 8 @ 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Join us for an in-person gathering for friends, partners, and supporters of The Early Childhood Agenda at Polar Park in Worcester, MA!

Our team is planning a thoughtful, informative, and engaging experience for all. Whether you have been a part of The Agenda from the beginning or just got involved – we want you to attend!

This is a free event – space is limited. Please register today!

More information to come over the next few weeks. If you have any immediate questions or require assistance, please email us [info@earlychildhoodagenda.org](mailto:info@earlychildhoodagenda.org)

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

# ARE YOU LOOKING TO OBTAIN A DEGREE IN THE FIELD OF EARLY CHILDHOOD?

Enroll, as a matriculated student, in an undergraduate degree program, **full or part-time**, in Early Childhood Education, Child Development, Family Studies, Child Care Administration or fields that directly name early child development and its specific areas of inquiry. Eligible graduate programs include these same categories as well as Early Childhood Research, Policy and Practice; Education Entrepreneurship; and Learning Sciences.”

## Apply for the Early Childhood Educators (ECE) Scholarship

The Scholarship will cover your tuition!

### Helpful Resources

- [EEC Scholarship 2023-2024 Flyer](#)
- [EEC Scholarship Guide](#)
- [Mass.edu](#)

For more information, please reach out to AES, the college or universities or Sarah Sian at [sarah.c.sian@mass.gov](mailto:sarah.c.sian@mass.gov)



# *Be on the Lookout!*

AES will be hosting several workshops and webinars in  
April, May & June.

Some of the topics include:

- Reflective Leadership
- Early Education and Mental Health
- Trauma Informed Practices
- Empowering Families for Early Childhood Advocacy
- Kindness and Creative Curriculum for School Aged

AES will also be working in the Central Massachusetts area on Advocacy efforts.

Stay tuned for more information!

Join and Like us on  
Facebook

Visit our website

Contact us