



day *of* **play**
family festival

An Edward Street Initiative

Preparing young children for future success begins with play today!

Program Book 2024

www.worcesterdayofplay.org

Travel Around Day of Play!



TRAVEL AROUND DAY OF PLAY!

Explore all of the different play areas today! Collect stamps when you visit an activity in each play area. Every child that fills their passport (gets play areas stamped) receives a prize. Take your completed passport to the Information Tents to claim your prize!

CREATIVE ART PLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	ACTIVE PLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONSTRUCTION PLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	READING PLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
HEALTH & WELLNESS PLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	STEM PLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
MINDFULNESS PLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	PERFORMANCES	<input type="checkbox"/>

Welcome to the Day of Play

We hope that you and your family enjoy this event where you will engage in activities that link the joy of playing to the joy of learning.

Young children learn the essential skills they will need to become successful as adults through play. Building block towers develops skills in architecture and engineering. Finger painting develops an understanding of our senses, color and art. Playing hop-scotch develops number recognition and early math skills. Playing tag develops social and team development skills. Playing outdoors develops an understanding of science and nature.

Today's research shows that children develop imagination, critical thinking skills and crucial problem solving skills through play. So today, enjoy the seven play areas and main stage performances. Participate in the activities that are thoughtfully designed to experience the real power of fun and games for learning.

Brought to you by your friends at Edward Street!



Get Involved!

If you would like to get involved, please visit our website and let us know!

Sign up for our *Day of Play* Newsletter!

When you sign up for our mailing list, you'll receive Edward Street's monthly Day of Play newsletter featuring fun family friendly activities!

Donate to Edward Street Day of Play!

You can feel good about donating to Edward Street Day of Play, we are a trusted voice in early childhood since 1883!



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Day of Play Family Festival 2024

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Where is everything?

There are **eight play areas** spread out around Elm Park. Each area consists of exciting opportunities for children to explore and learn while having fun!



Play Areas and Amenities

PLAY AREAS

- 1 Main Stage / Performances
- 2 Science, Technology, Engineering & Math Play (STEM)
- 3 Creative Arts Play
- 4 Construction Play
- 5 Active Play
- 6 Reading Play
- 7 Health & Wellness
- 8 Mindfulness

AMENITIES



First Aid



Parking



Bathrooms



Information Tent, Programs & Giveaways



Construction Play



What do children learn from construction play?

Construction play requires dexterity and promotes strength in children's fingers and hands, and improves their eye-hand coordination.

Children's vocabulary increases as they describe sizes, shapes and colors. They also increase their math skills by sorting objects by shape and color.

Because blocks encourage children to create their own designs, their imaginations are sparked and their brains are built.

Activities

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Construction Junction

Build towers, make a fort, design a rocket ship...You are limited only by your imagination as you build with multi-sized blocks and recyclables at the Construction Junction.

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Little Ones Neighborhood

Enjoy a tot-sized neighborhood. Little ones can build and explore their neighborhood with just-the-right-size blocks and streets.

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Build with Home Depot

Join staff from Home Depot to build a small project. Find just the right tool to get the job done!



11:00AM – 3:30PM | Safety First!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to sit inside a police car or fire truck? Meet Worcester Fire Department's Lt. John Ushinski and explore his firetruck. Meet Worcester Police Officers and climb into a cruiser. Explore their vehicles and get some safety tips for you and your family!

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Driving Nails

Get your construction hat on and enjoy some fun with real tools! Practice hammering nails into wood!



Active Play



What do children learn from active play?

Active physical play allows children to use their energy, gives children the chance to develop gross and fine motor skills, to learn new things, and socialize.

Physical play also benefits a child's health and helps prevent childhood obesity.

Active play helps a child to develop connections between the nerve cells and the brain. The ideal physical play incorporates play with social interactions and problem solving.

Activities

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Obstacle Course

Crawl, climb, hop and jump your way through our amazing obstacle course!

11:30AM – 1:30PM | Dance Fit 4 U

Come boogie with Dance Fit 4U! Fun dancing for all ages and abilities to fresh pop, lively Latin and classic rock.

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Parachute Fun!

For the little ones, come join in some parachute games. Can you shake the parachute to make the ball roll all around? Can you help it pop up in the air?

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Rockets Aways!

Make and launch your own air rocket. How high...how far...can your rocket go? Experiment with different designs and the sky is the limit.

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Cornhole Toss

Grab a friend play some cornhole. How many bags can you toss into the hole?

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Big Bubbles and Foam Columns

Wow, can you make enormous bubbles? Create, manipulate, and pop super big bubbles. Then you can experiment with foam, making tall, taller, and tallest columns.

11:00AM – 3:00PM | Soccer Clinic

Do you play soccer? Do you want to learn? Join the fun. Learn how to dribble, control, and kick the ball. Maybe you can score a goal! Brought to you by Cultural Exchange Through Soccer (CETS).

11:00AM – 12:00PM | Meet Smiley from the WooSox

Keep your eyes open to spy Smiley. Stop by the Active Play Area to greet Smiley and snap a photo before Smiley heads out to the baseball game!

12:00PM – 1:00PM | Meet Jake the Lion of Worcester Bravehearts

Come by the Active Play Area to high-five Jake and snap a photo.

12:00PM – 1:00PM | Meet BayState Benji

Come by the Active Play Area to shake Benji's paw and snap a photo.

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Imagination Playground

Using Imagination Playground blocks, kids build a new world every day. They make objects like animals, rocket ships, and robots. They make imaginary places like houses, factories, and cities. They make new dramatic scenarios, settings, and games to play. Most important, they make the rules. Because Imagination Playground is child-directed and open-ended, it encourages self-expression through deep, joyful play. Equipment provided by the Worcester Family Partnership.

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Bubble World

Explore and play in our "bubble pit" and unleash your creativity with bubble painting! Brought to you by Together for Kids Coalition.

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Tik Tak Toe and Magnet Fishing

Come check out Tik Tak Toe and Magnet Fishing lawn games. Play these games to earn prizes! Hosted by the Seven Hills Foundation.

Live Performances

11:00AM – 11:20AM | Betty Machete & the Jumping Fleas

"Bette Machete & the Jumping Fleas" is an all-women's ukulele club based in Worcester. The ukulele is sometimes called a "machete". "Ukulele" roughly translates from the Hawaiian as "jumping flea." Betty Machete and the Jumping Fleas will perform several well-known children's songs and welcome all to sing along!



11:30AM – 12:00PM The Wormtown Mugwumps

Come see The Wormtown Mugwumps and join in the fun as we sing and play your troubles away. Worcester's premier jug band offers up a rousing assortment of string band, washtub, and jug music - audience participation on your very own kazoo is welcome!

12:15PM – 12:45PM Community Read Along with Pete the Cat

Come sit a spell and join in our community reading of two favorite Pete the Cat stories. Pete the Cat will be joining the fun on stage grooving to Pete the Cat: Rocking My School Shoes & Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes. Kids can receive a Pete the Cat book to take home, while supplies last. After we read, Pete will hang around for some photos.

12:00PM – 3:00PM Cory Scott – Rat Catcher Extraordinaire!

Corey Scott – the Rat Catcher Extraordinaire – will take you on a delightfully zany interactive adventure as he roams around the park. He really is the Pied Piper!

Live Performances

1:00PM – 1:30PM | Janoah anygoodjokes?

Janoah returns to the Day of Play with his engaging and fun presence - join in as he performs and teaches as a juggler...ist, unicyclist...er and fool...ish! He will be circulating throughout the festival and on the Main Stage for this exciting juggling show with props that will amaze all ages!

1:45 – 2:15 | Josh Morin & Life Skills Martial Arts Demonstration

Come join in an interactive demonstration of mindfulness and confidence building through martial arts poses. Students from Life Skills Martial Arts will lead the audience in simple, fun exercises. Explore more confidence and concentration building exercises in the Mindfulness Play Area.

2:30PM – 3:00PM | Dan & Imogene

Imogene & Dan are a daughter/father duo performing original music and a wide variety of unique cover songs from punk to pop and all points in between!

3:15PM – 3:30PM | Hip-Hop with InDaZone

Come join in! Founded in 2007 and now celebrating 17 years of dance, youth development and community service, this Hip-Hop dance team is based out the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester.



3:30PM – 4:00 PM | Eternals Lion Dance

Come to the Main Stage for a performance of the Eternals Lion Dance. The traditional Lion Dance represents power, courage, and good luck! Then become part of the celebration as the Dancers interact with the audience!

Science, Technology, Enginee

What do children learn from STEM play?

To establish and maintain a diverse, robust and dynamic pipeline of future STEM professionals who are globally competitive it is necessary to nurture students' innate curiosity at a young age and spark student interest and excitement in STEM subjects through authentic, experiential learning beginning in early childhood...

~Massachusetts Plan for Excellence in STEM Education

Activities

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Math is Everywhere

Children are born mathematicians! Explore our math games that will help to inspire your children's natural curiosity about math. Designed by early childhood educators and parents, these games are fun, easy to learn, and freely available. Visit our website at www.ym.edc.org and stop by our booth to play! Brought to you by Young Mathematicians in Worcester.

11:00AM – 3:30PM | New England Botanic Garden

Check out the New England Botanic Garden table where you can make your own environmental crafts and learn more about the environment!



ring & Math (STEM)

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Interactive Nature Table

Learn about local birds. We will help you identify common birds that you can see right from your window in Worcester. We will have bird games, bird scavenger hunts and more! Brought to you by Mass Audubon Broad Meadow Brook.

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Hands on Farm and Forest Exploration

We raise environmental stewards and farmers with hands on experiences. Come join for a taste of our farm and forest program at Turn Back Time.



11:00AM – 3:30PM | Motion and Movement in STEM

Come join the Worcester Head Start Program in our activity exploring the physics of movement. Families can experiment with a variety of materials as they fly through a wind tunnel and move down ramps.

11:00AM – 3:00PM | Seed Planting and a Local Snack

The Regional Environmental Council (REC) staff and volunteers will teach children how to plant a seed and send them home with a take home pot! They will also get to taste a piece of local fruit from the farmer's market!

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Get Up Close with the Creepy, the Crawly & the Cute!

Leo Spinner from Skins & Scales, Live Animal Presentation will introduce you to snakes, frogs, lizards, spiders, and tortoises big enough to ride! Experience hands-on learning about these creatures from all around the world!



Mass Cultural Council

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

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Reading Play

What do children learn from reading play?

Early literacy skills are the foundation of all learning. Third grade reading proficiency is a critical benchmark. Until grade three children learn to read. After grade three children read to learn.

Reading to your child encourages a love of learning. Making reading at bedtime a routine makes bedtime a positive experience for children and parents.

Activities

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Come Meet Libby – Worcester’s Mobile Library!

Come on board Libby, the mobile library, and get your free Worcester Public Library card. We have books and movies for all ages and interests. Come learn about our Summer Reading Program!



11:00AM – 3:30PM | Write Your Own Story

Telling, drawing and writing stories is a powerful way for children to share their understanding and become confident readers and writers. Come write your own story and bring it home for your own library!

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Plush Reading Buddies

Make a small stuffed pal to sit by your side as you read and tell stories. You can make a caterpillar, bunny or even an octopus.

11:00 AM – 3:30 PM | Literacy Rocks

Beep, beep. Word construction underway! Join us in the alphabet rock pits as we move letters around to construct words. Use small construction vehicles to transform our letter rock quarry into a busy construction site.



11:00AM – 3:30PM | Go Fish Spelling!

Join staff from the Division of Youth Opportunities to fish for letters and use these letters to make words. You can fish alone or with others and have fun fishing and making words!

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Book Nook Under the Trees

Come relax and curl up with some great books. Grab some shade and share stories as a family. Find new titles and enjoy some classics.

Creative Arts Play

What do children learn from creative arts play?

Children of all ages delight in expressing their ideas through sounds, textures, colors, and shapes. Creativity in children can be developed by engaging them in activities that enable them to share their ideas, thoughts and feelings.

The creative arts—painting, sculpture and drawing—are a crucial part of childhood. Not only do the arts allow children to express themselves, but creative activity can enhance development of children's skills in literacy, science, math, social studies, and more.

Activities

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Self Portrait Puppets

Children at this age are developing self-image. This activity will promote a positive self-image as children create a puppet that will look like them. They can then use their homemade puppet to play in the puppet theater!

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Puppet Theatre

Children will bring their hand made self-portrait puppets to the theaters and use their creativity and imagination as they carry out their own puppet show. As they play and meet new friends, they can enhance their social skills. Children can watch each other or join others. We will also have a variety of other puppets to use.

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Decorate Your Own Canvas

Channel your inner artist! Children can creatively choose and mix colors and materials. Create a unique masterpiece! Learn about Tufts Health Plan options for all ages and incomes and get your questions answered.

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Lights, Camera, Action!

Dress up and take the stage! Come explore the dramatic play area. Find a costume or a prop and bring your imagination to life!



11:00AM – 3:30PM | Wood Coloring

Show your artistic skills with the Worcester Family Resource Center's wood caricature coloring. All supplies will be provided, and kids will be able to keep their masterpieces. FRC staff will be available to connect families to available community resources.

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Kid Friendly Plein Air Painting

The plein air style of painting is an outdoor art that uses your surrounding nature. Using easels, canvas, brushes and paint, your child can capture the magic of Elm Park around them. Hosted by C.C. Lowell.

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Creative Crowns

Worcester Tech Early Childhood students will host a creative art activity using crayons, bingo daubers, stickers and paper strips to personalize unique head crowns for children to wear!

1:00PM – 3:00PM | Music Safari: Explore and Play Instruments

Has your child ever wanted to play an instrument? Come visit Pakachoag's "Music Safari" booth to discover and play different instruments - karaoke included!

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Explore African Arts and Culture

Crocodile River Music brings art, music and movement to the Day of Play to let children and families explore the art of Africa. They will bring their own musical instruments that kids can explore.

11:00AM – 3:00PM | Drum Circles

Tony Wilson, a Head Start Music teacher organizes engaging hands-on drum circles suitable for all age groups. Come check out the percussion tutorials and drum circles Tony has to offer.



Health & Wellness

What do children learn from health & wellness?

In raising healthy children, it's not enough to just focus on the physical aspect of health. To be truly healthy, a child's emotional health must be nurtured and strengthened. Developing a mental attitude of wellness is also essential. By adopting an attitude of wellness, we will come to believe that being well is a natural, normal state. By developing a wellness attitude in our children, they will learn that they have control over their own body and that leads to health and happiness.

Activities

11:00AM – 3:00PM | Happy Teeth!

Students of QCC will conduct hands-on learning activities related to the connection between oral health and body health. Activities will include mixing and measuring for your very own home-made toothpaste!



11:00AM – 3:30PM | Health and Wellness Table

Come check out the YWCA table where you can learn all about health and wellness and take part in various activities, including spinning the exercise wheel!

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Teddy Bear Clinic

Children will have the opportunity to learn about health and safety through fun and interactive activities with medical providers helping to demystify the healthcare experience. Kids are encouraged to bring their own teddy bear or doll to the event for a “check-up.” Brought to you by the Child Health Equity Center at UMass Chan Medical School / UMass Memorial Children’s Medical Center.



11:00AM – 3:30PM | Packing Peanut Design Challenge

Did you know that packing peanuts are compostable? Because they are made with cornstarch or potato starch, they are sticky when wet. Come build a tower of stacking packing peanuts to learn about sustainability and the basics of architectural design! Pause a moment and get your blood pressure checked too! There will also be a lactation tent available to provide a private and comfortable space for breastfeeding. Brought to you by Worcester Division of Public Health, Maternal & Child Health.

11:00AM – 3:30PM | Eyes on Worcester Mobile Unit

Want to learn more about your eyes? Come check out the optometry mobile office of Worcester Vision. You can tour the office, learn more about their practice, and take part in giveaways!

Mindfulness

What do children learn from mindfulness?

Building mindful practices into your family routine is healthy for you and your child. Simple techniques like breathing, grounded feet, and building awareness of inner and outer spaces all support children's healthy development. Mindfulness brings calm and helps children build skills such as focus, attention, self-control, compassion, and resilience.

Activities

11:00AM – 3:30PM | **Monster Puppets**

Come make your own paper bag monster. Have fun exploring different emotions and learn ways to take care of the emotions you may have.

11:00AM – 3:30PM | **Rock Your Emotions**

Decorate your own rock with emotions or feelings. Take it with you to remind you that all feelings are welcome and natural; we all have them!

11:00AM – 3:30PM | **Life Skill Martial Arts: Board Breaking**

Joining us for the first time this year is the Life Skills Martial Arts team. Come check them out and learn how to break a board in a child-safe activity, which helps boost self-confidence for better grades and bully-proofing.

11:30AM – 1:30PM | **Come Meet Tomo!**

Take some time to relax and come visit Therapy Dog Tomo from Animal-assisted Therapy services (AaTs) of Massachusetts. Tomo is a 4-year-old American Akita, who loves to play and meet new friends!

12:00PM – 3:00PM | **Family Yoga**

Yoga for everyone! Visit the Yoga Zone for a playful exploration of yoga poses, simple meditation and breathing exercises for joyful family connection. Demonstrations at 1:30 & 2:30.

All day, come sit a spell and enjoy some quiet time and relax.

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