

# CONNECTIONS

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## Memory the Heart of All Learning

Adapted from an article by same name for Community Playthings by F. Wardle, August 2023

Memory is at the heart of all learning. When we talk about memory, most people think of symbolic memory. Symbolic memory requires two kinds of symbols—words and numbers. It is what we use as we find words to represent ideas, objects, or experiences. We use symbolic memory when we collect memories of similar objects, ideas, events, and experiences into categorical files. The information we store can then be used to solve problems, write stories, and learn about similar and different subjects. As we continue to experience and learn, we expand the information about the things we have learned. Academic teaching and learning focuses on using symbolic memory.

There is also enactive and iconic memory. Enactive memory is muscle memory. It's the memory we use to repeat a dance step, kick a soccer ball, walk, run, and skip. Children often point, move their arms, crunch down low, and skip to replicate something they have seen or experienced. It is the basis of "circle song" movements that children will use to request singing a favorite song.

Iconic memory is our ability to use

pictures, maps, diagrams, and designs as abstract representation. Many young children love to draw pictures of experiences they have had. Wordless and other picture books use iconic memory to tell a story.

Children use enactive and iconic memory when they engage in play, especially physical play, as they repeat motor activities, imitate skills, and master new physical sequences. In constructive play, they use both types of memory for patterning, sequencing, constructing, copying, and imitating designs and structures.

Experiences that build iconic and enactive memory lay essential groundwork for a child's cognitive development. While some children naturally progress to almost total symbolic memory, others continue to rely on enactive and/or iconic memory into their adult lives—especially professional athletes, dancers, artists, designers, and architects.

It is very important to develop, encourage, and support young children's use of enactive and iconic memory, not rushing them too quickly to focus on symbolic memory.



### Happy Spring!

Look inside for the spring registration flyer. Send it back in or bring it with you to group. The Spring Lottery is March 14th. There will only be the Music group during the week of March 25th-29th.

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The Hull Family Network is funded by the Dept of Early Education & Care.

# Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant



## Summer Camp Options

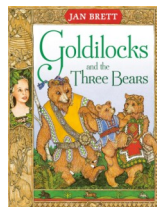
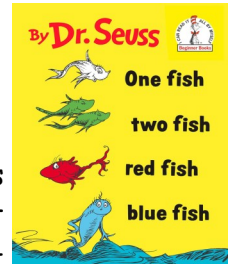
Children who have attended preschool all year often struggle at the lack of structure and friends to play with during the summer. Camp options for the youngest children are hard to find. Children can attend the Hull Family Network during the summer 1 day a week. The Trustees of the Reservations and Holly Hill Farm typically have a session for preschool-aged children. Start looking now as they fill up fast. For those of you with school-aged children, The Hull Lifesaving Museum runs week long, theme-based options for children ages Kindergarten and up. The Hull Park and Recreation Camp is a great flexible option and does not fill up. The website is available for sign-ups now at [https://hullma.myrec.com/info/activities/program\\_details.aspx?ProgramID=29880](https://hullma.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29880)

## Sunset Point Summer Camp

The Sunset Point Camp in Hull is open to residents of Hull ages 6-15 with a Counselor in Training Option for youth aged 13-15. Income eligible families can pay a very reduced fee. Visit their website for more information, [https://www.ccab.org/family-youth-services/after-school-summer-programs/sp24\\_\\_trashed/sunset-point-overnight-camp/](https://www.ccab.org/family-youth-services/after-school-summer-programs/sp24__trashed/sunset-point-overnight-camp/)

## Books by Authors from Massachusetts

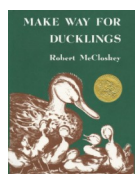
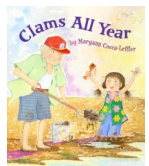
Dr. Seuss was originally from Springfield, MA. His birthday on March 2nd has been celebrated as part of Read Across America Day for many years. Several of his books have been called out due to his drawings not being politically correct in the last few years, but many do not have these concerns. As he aged, he did write books addressing social concerns such as *The Butter Battle Book* about the arms race with Russia and *The Lorax* addressing environmental concerns.



Jan Brett is from Norwell and has written both original stories and has illustrated editions of classic stories. Her books have beautiful illustrations, many with side-bars foreshadowing the next page in the story. *The Mitten* was one of my favorites to read with my children.

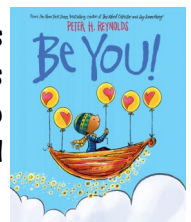
Another favorite author of my family was David McPhail. He was from the North Shore and wrote quite a few stories about boys who had great adventures, such as *Edward in the Jungle*, *The Puddle*, and *Sail Away*. *Pigs Ahoy!* and *Pigs Aplenty*, *Pigs Galore!* are tales of what can go wrong when the Pigs come to visit. He wrote a heartwarming tale, *The Teddy Bear*, and another, *Lost!*, based in the Boston Common.

A summer read in group each year is *Clams All Year* by Maryann Cocca-Leffler. The story is about a large extended family who has a summer home in Hull. In addition, she wrote *Bus Route to Boston*, covering a trip from Everett, MA into Boston to shop. She has other books as well which are equally as good such as *The Belonging Tree* and books on the seasons.



Although Robert McCloskey was from Maine, his book *Make for Ducklings* is a classic story that was inspired by the swan boats. Each year on Mother's Day there is a parade with many people dressing up as ducklings as the swan boats reopen for the season.

Peter H. Reynolds is both an illustrator for others books, as well, as a writer of his own books. He writes wonderful books for preschool-aged children and up encouraging a variety of wonderful character traits and mostly to Be You! and proud of what makes you, you.



Lastly, we have two authors here in town; Jenny Montgomery wrote *Salty*, the story of a seagull who befriended a fisherman, and Jacqueline Veissid, who attended playgroups with her daughters, has written *Ruby's Sword* and *Caspian Finds a Friend*.

# Hull Family Network

## Note from the HFN Coordinator:

Joan F. MacDonald, [jmacdonald@town.hull.ma.us](mailto:jmacdonald@town.hull.ma.us)

Spring is coming quickly this year after a mild winter. Since daylight savings time is March 10th, and sunset won't be until 6:48pm on March 13th, March 6th will be the last Drop-in Gym time. If by some surprise, snow has come on the 12th or 13th, I will post on Facebook that we can host Drop-in Gym.

March is the birthday of one of my favorite children's book authors, Dr Seuss. He was born on March 2nd in Springfield, MA. If you ever want a fun day away, his museum and the sculptures around it, are a fun trip. The National Education Association (NEA) celebrates Read Across America every March to encourage reading and its many benefits for children of all ages. We have many of his books, or other books, that you are welcome to check out any time you are here for group from our lending library. In addition, we have Reading Fun backpacks containing 3 books and reading tips that you are welcome to check out and read from week to week. Just ask the next time you come to group.



## What's Play Got to Do With It?

Adapted from Community Plaything, Article by the same name

Toddlers are very capable of playing with intensity and creativity, but the way they play is different from older children. They play in the moment, with the ideas that come to them from their experience or the environment. This play isn't as recognizable as the socio-dramatic play of preschoolers. They may use one object to serve as another, get distracted from what they are playing when they discover a new prop or toy, or stop to watch others in mid-play. They pick up on others' play ideas to make them uniquely their own. Although older toddlers are very interested in what other children are doing, much of toddler play is done alone, even if the classroom is full of children. And toddler play is highly repetitive. In fact, it is repetition that helps children understand and remember what they learned and recall and use it later. Toddler play can be remarkably sophisticated and provides us with insight into their thinking.

Toddlers are fascinated by other children and find watching their activities highly engaging and entertaining. Yet the ability to play with other children is just emerging—and needs support and encouragement from the trusted adults in their lives. When toddlers play, they subtly adjust the way they play to the play of their friends to keep the play going—an early indicator that they understand how others are feeling. Despite this, they are still learning to share and don't understand that taking something from that peer may upset the peer.

Toddlers love to role-play. They actually become the mommy or daddy or the growling bear, rather than acting like them, as they make use of the play props provided. Toys that are real items from the child's world (purses, wallets, pots, pans, clothes, shoes, hats) are intriguing and support beginning role-play efforts. Toddler play needs these props—they invite children to play and give them ideas about where to start. Play cues can come from many sources. The best source of play cues is you. When you pick up a toy and play with it, or sit down at the table to see if you can fit a puzzle piece into the puzzle, the toy or puzzle becomes very interesting to toddlers. This strategy for inviting play is an excellent way to interest toddlers in new materials or props. Play is a staple of childhood. For toddlers, play serves as an important proving ground for the more complicated social world to come. When toddlers play, they build an understanding of how they can impact and interact with objects and others. This understanding is foundational—it will serve as the basis for a lifetime of successful relationships and learning.

National Consumer Protection Week • March 3–9 #NCPW2024  
NCPW Speaks Your Language

Scams target different communities differently.  
Find out how to report scams in your language:

[ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://ReportFraud.ftc.gov)



**March 3–9, 2024**

## **National Consumer Protection Week**

Check out their website for a variety of resources on your rights as a consumer and how to protect yourself from fraud & scams

*National Consumer Protection Week | Consumer Advice (ftc.gov)*



**Hull Family Network**  
**18 Harborview Rd., Rm. C101**  
**Hull, MA 02045**

***Return Service Requested***

**Check our website for additional  
events and information at**

<https://www.hullpublicschools.org/district/hull-family-network>

**This newsletter is provided by  
the Hull Family Network, now  
serving families with  
children up to age 8  
years.**



Sponsored by the Coordinated Family and  
Community Engagement (CFCE) grant from  
the Massachusetts Department of Early  
Education and Care and Care

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## What is the Hull Family Network?

The Hull Family Network supports all parents and caregivers who have children prenatal through age eight. Our goal is to help parents create and maintain a healthy family environment as well as to promote family well-being through parent education and community support.

Funded by the MA Department of Early Education and Care through a grant to the Hull Public Schools, the Hull Family Network provides playgroups, parent education workshops, parent support groups, family activities, as well as information on parenting and community resources. By providing family recreational activities and playgroups, we hope to help parents build connections that will extend beyond the HFN Center and be a support to them. By providing parent education workshops, support groups, and having an extensive parenting lending library, we hope to help parents enhance their child-rearing skills.

Our programs are free to all residents in the town of Hull who are pregnant or have children through the age of eight. Most of our programs are offered at our center which is located at 18 Harborview Road, inside the Jacobs School. We are open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday and are always happy to meet a new family.



## Faux Stained Glass

I love making crafts with children, but as a mom I know you can only keep so many cute projects. This one is perfect as the sharpie ink fades over time. After a month you can throw the project out with no remorse.

### Materials

Black acrylic paint, white glue, clear plastic sheets from a folder, or container, or a sealed laminating sheet, sharpie markers.

### Instructions:

1. Mix a combination of 1 part paint to one part white glue and place it in a squeeze bottle.
2. Place a design under the clear plastic and outline the pattern onto the plastic. Allow to dry overnight or for at least 8 hours.
3. Once the glue is dry and firm, fill in the design with sharpies.
4. Cut out the design when done and hang in a window with double-sided tape.

