



FAMILY RESOURCE PACKET (2020-2021)

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This Family Resource Packet was created to give CFN parents ideas of places to go and activities to do with their children around Concord, in surrounding towns and suburbs, in Boston, and further afield. This is not an exhaustive list so feel free to continue the research. Please note that although we have revised this packet, some of the information may be temporarily outdated due to COVID; we have chosen to include pre-COVID information so that you can get a sense of potential venues and activities, which will hopefully resume after the pandemic. Take care and happy exploring! ~Sheri, CFN Co-chair

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- Town of Concord (concordma.gov) – town info, quick links, welcome packet
- Living Concord (livingconcord.com) – where to stay, play, eat, shop, etc.
- Concord Visitor Center (58 Main Street, Concord)
- First Connections (jri.org) – support groups, play groups, etc.
- Concord Family Network Preschool Matrix – see “Important Links” on Tinyhood
- Concord Library – story times, arts & crafts, singalong, summer reading program, discounted museum passes
- Facebook Groups: Concord MA Community Group, Lived or Living in Concord, MA, Concord-Carlisle Buy Nothing
- Nextdoor: Many neighbors use Nextdoor as a way to keep updated on specific neighborhood events/happenings
- My Bridge – Babysitting!
- Concord Land Conservation Trust – check out their list of conservation lands and hiking trails

TOP AREA ORGANIZATIONS with PROGRAMS/CLASSES

- Concord Recreation Department (concordrec.com) – town events; classes/camps for elementary aged children
- Concord Carlisle Adult & Community Education (concordcarlisleace.org) – classes for adults and children
- Umbrella Arts: (theumbrellaarts.org) art classes for toddlers, youth, teens and adults
- Teamworks (teamworksaction.com) – sports classes and camps for ages 2+
- Concord Conservatory of Music: (concordconservatory.org) music lessons for children ages 5+

FREE PUBLIC EVENTS – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (PRE-COVID)

Town of Concord	Concord Recreation	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April – Patriots Parade • June – Summer Sizzling Sidewalk Fair (Main Street & Walden Street) • July 4 – Picnic in the Park (Emerson Park) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feb – Winter Wonderland • April – Egg Hunt at CCHS FB Field • May – Stow Street Block Party, West Concord • June – Jazz Fest • Aug – Rideout Movie Series and West Concord Concert Series • Oct – Trunk or Treat • Dec – Tree Lighting & Parade • Road Races & Special Events (see concordrec.com) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boston Free Family Fridays (highlandstreet.org) • Library Story Times: Acton, Concord Fowler Branch, Lincoln, Bedford. • Umbrella Community Arts Center: Family Art Days

ACTIVITIES TO DO WITH CHILDREN

Playgrounds			
Concord (In Town)	Local Area (5-10 miles)	Boston Burbs/Neighborhoods	Downtown Boston
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerson Playground (sprinklers) Playscape at Ripley Rideout Playground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Castle Park, Sudbury Bedford Town Playground (by library) Elm Street Playground, Acton near Gates School Castle in the Trees, Littleton Haskell Field, Sudbury Carlisle Toddler Playground – off Church St. Acton Arboretum, Acton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thomas Menino Park, Charlestown Larz Anderson Park, Brookline Castle Island Playground, Boston Harbor Skyline Park, Newton Drake Playground, Waltham (water) Franklin Park Zoo, Roxbury (great playground for older kids) Skyline Park, Newton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles River Esplanade Frog Pond and Carousel, Boston Commons Lawn on D Martin’s Park at Smith Family Waterfront, Seaport District Tadpole Playground, Boston Commons Martin’s Park at Smith Family Waterfront, Seaport District

Outdoors (parks, walks/runs, hiking, biking, classes)			
Concord	Local Area	Burbs & Beyond	Downtown Boston
<p><i>Please see list of Concord Area Trails on page 6, which includes Town trails, Concord Land Conservation Trust Trails, National Parks, and Bike Trails.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acton Arboretum Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (good parking at NARA Park, Acton, also near Concord Rotary) Foss Farm, Carlisle (trails, community gardens) Great Brook Farm State Park, Carlisle NARA Park, Acton Puddlestompers Timbernook Tinkergarden (outdoor education classes, 18 mo-5 yrs) Acton Arboretum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain (spring cherry blossoms, lilacs in May, fall colors) Blue Hills Reservation, Milton (hiking) Garden in the Woods, Framingham Horn Pond, Woburn (walk around pond) Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield (hiking) Jamaica Pond, Jamaica Plain (walk around pond) Larz Anderson Park, Brookline (pond walk & playground) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boston Commons, downtown (green space, frog pond, playground, merry-go-round) Boston Public Garden, downtown (walking, swan boats, flowers) Castle Island (fort, walking, playground, beach) Charles River Esplanade (walking, playgrounds) Rose Kennedy Greenway, downtown (near Faneuil Hall; water, greenspace)

Pools, Beaches, Gyms, Waterparks, Swim Classes			
Concord	Local Area	Burbs & Beyond	Boston
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beede Center (membership) Heritage Club (membership) Nashawtuc Country Club (membership) Thoreau Club (membership) Walden Pond (pay for parking--go early!) White Pond (membership) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atkinson Swim, Sudbury Boston Sports Club, Bedford (membership) Lexington Town Pool (membership) NARA Park (beach fee) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lifetime, Burlington (membership) CoCo Key Water Park, Danvers (day pass) Cranes Beach, Ipswich (fee) Carson Beach and L Street Beach, South Boston Goldfish Swim, various locals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kroc Center, Upham’s Corner (day pass)

ACTIVITIES, CONT.

Farms, Zoos, Animals			
Concord	Area	Burbs & Beyond	Downtown Boston
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barrett's Mill Farm • Marshall Farm • Millbrook Farm • Scimone's Farm Stand • Verrill Farm (strawberry picking) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chip-In Farm, Bedford • Codman Farm, Lincoln • Cranberry Bogs, Carlisle • Cucurbit Farm, Acton • Drumlin Farm, Lincoln • Honey Pot Hill Orchards, Stow • New England Nurseries, Bedford • Old Frog Pond Orchard), Stow • Shelburne Farm, Stow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Adventures Zoo and Rescue Center, Bolton, MA • Boston Nature Center • Davis Farmland Petting Zoo, Sterling • Franklin Park Zoo, Roxbury • Stone Zoo, Stoneham • The Butterfly Place, Westford, MA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum of Science, downtown (Butterfly museum, some animals in basement, animal shows) • New England Aquarium, downtown

Indoor Activities, Playspaces, Playgroups			
Concord	Local Area	Burbs & Beyond	Downtown Boston
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concord Family Network Winter Playgroup – Hunt Multipurpose Room (Jan-March) • Concord Family Network Preschool Playgroups, Babies & Books, etc. (Saturdays during winter) • CCACE Toddler Time at Ripley (2 classes: Thursdays for 1-2yo and Fridays for 2-3 yo) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Connections Playgroups • Jam Time, Maynard • Learning Express, Bedford • One Stop Fun, Westford • Perpetual Play, Chelmsford 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jump On In, Woburn (best for older children) • Kids Playground, Woburn • Launch Trampoline Park, Watertown & Framingham • Sky Zone Trampoline Park, Everett (best for older children) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Boston Children's Museum • Museum of Science

Museums			
Concord	Local Area	Burbs & Beyond	Boston
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concord Museum (best for school aged children) • Hawthorne House (best for school aged children) • Old Manse (best for school aged children) • Orchard House (best for school aged children) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De Cordova Art Museum, Lincoln • Discovery Museum, Acton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecotarium, Worcester • Harvard Natural History Museum, Cambridge (free on Sundays for MA residents) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boston Children's Museum • Boston Fire Museum • Museum of Science • The Museum of Fine Arts • The Institute of Contemporary Art • The Mapparium • USS Constitution, Bunker Hill

Art Classes			
Concord	Local Area	Burbs	Downtown Boston
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Umbrella Arts • Craft.ed • Concord Recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beehive Art, Wayland (3-4 yrs old) • Color*Full, Acton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pine Cones & Needles, Belmont • Kidsplace, Needham • Artbeat, Arlington 	

ACTIVITIES, CONT.

Drama, Plays, Music			
Concord	Local Area	Burbs & Beyond	Downtown Boston
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concord Youth Theater (Watch a Playtime Theater performance, ages 2-9) • Concord Conservatory of Music (classes) • Music Together (Footnotes Music) • Concord Recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Maker School, Acton • Music Together (Mister Vic & Company), Maynard – JamTime • Paper Moon Workshop, Acton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circus Playhouse, Peabody • Puppet Showplace Theater, Brookline • <i>Charlie Brown Christmas</i>, Lynn & Lowell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boston Ballet (<i>The Nutcracker</i>) • Urban Nutcracker • <i>Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical</i>

Dance & Gymnastics			
Concord	Local Area	Burbs	Downtown Boston
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helena • Setting the Bar Dance Academy • West Concord Dance Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acton School of Ballet, Acton • Boston Gymnastics Academy, Acton • Five Star Gymnastics • Little Gym, Littleton • Planet Gymnastics, Acton • JamTime, Maynard 		

Sports			
Concord	Local Area	Burbs & Beyond	Downtown Boston
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concord Carlisle Pop Warner Flag Football – fall • Concord Carlisle Youth Soccer – fall & spring • Concord Recreation – see schedule of classes • Marx Fencing Academy • Middlesex School Pratt Rink (skating & hockey) - winter • Target Soccer Academy – summer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acton Bowladrome • Callahan’s Karate, Bedford • Nashoba Ski Area • Sudbury Gymnax, Sudbury • Teamworks, Acton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowell Spinners Baseball, Lowell • Mini Golf, Natick • Sacco Bowl Haven, Somerville 	

Amusement, Games & Arcades			
Concord	Local Area	Burbs & Beyond	New England
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acton Bowladrome & Arcade, Acton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chuck E. Cheese, Natick • Jay Gee’s Ice Cream and Fun Center, Methuen • Kimball Farm, Westford • Lazer Craze, Woburn • Legoland, Somerville • Sacco’s Bowl Haven, Somerville 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salem Willows Arcade, Salem

ADDITIONAL PLACES TO GO WITH CHILDREN	
Massachusetts	New England
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cochituate State Park - Natick (beach, picnic) • Dinosaur Museum - Hadley • Dr. Seuss Museum - Springfield • Edaville Family Theme Park & Thomas Land – Carver • Fun World - Nashua • Lookout Farm - Natick (huge orchard, animals, train, etc.) • Peabody Essex Museum - Salem • Southwick Zoo - Menden • Sturbridge Village - Sturbridge • Topsfield Fair - Topsfield • Trombetta’s Farm - Marlboro (wood things to paint, ice cream, indoor mini golf) • Wachusett Meadow, Princeton, MA (Mass Audubon) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canobie Lake Park - Salem, NH • Children’s Museum – Providence, RI • Roger Williams Zoo – Providence, RI • Santa’s Village – Jefferson, NH • Storyland - near North Conway, NH • York Wild Animal Kingdom - York Beach, ME • Mystic Aquarium, Mystic CT

KID-FRIENDLY RESTAURANTS

- Club Car Café – generally not busy; trains will entertain children
- Comella’s – casual (order food at counter), and pizza comes out quickly
- Dino’s, West Concord – casual (order at counter)
- Helen’s – good food (cash only), but space is tight (you can leave stroller outside)
- Main Street Café, Concord – good food, can take a while to order, space is a little tight inside; way back room is best
- Not Your Average Joe’s, Acton – big restaurant and often busy but enough space for children
- Rapscaillon Brewery, Acton – The Acton location is larger than the Concord one. Both have delicious food and are cozy
- Red Heat, Bedford – great kid menu and yummy food; outdoor seating in summer
- Salt Box Kitchen – casual and some space for strollers
- The 99 Restaurant, West Concord – good space, ok food at a great price, good for large families, kids get free ice cream
- Trail’s End Café – large space with different seating sections (and not often busy), so quiet and great for kids to move around
- Walden Kitchen, West Concord – allergy friendly; tight but waitresses are great

PLACES FOR A BIRTHDAY PARTY

- Acton Bowladrome, Acton
- Boston Gymnastics Academy, Acton
- Craft.ed, Concord
- JamTime, Maynard
- Jump on In, Woburn
- Learning Express, Bedford
- One Stop Fun, Westford
- Teamworks, Acton

SUMMER CAMPS FOR SCHOOL-AGED KIDS

- Concord Academy
- Concord Carlisle Adult & Community Education
- Concord Recreation
- Drumlin Farms
- Fenn
- Target Soccer
- Teamworks
- Umbrella Arts

AREA PRESCHOOLS

(For more information, please see “CFN Preschool Matrix” on Tinyhood under Important Files – right bar on browser)

- The Barn Preschool
- The Children’s Meetinghouse
- Carousel School
- Concord Children’s Center
- Concord Integrated
- Concord Montessori
- The LEAP School
- Lincoln Nursery School at deCordova Sculpture Park
- Little Sprouts
- Magic Garden
- Milldam Nursery School
- Nashoba Brooks School

CONCORD TRAILS

(For more information, please see “CFN Trail Explorers - Area Trails & Suggested Hikes” on Tinyhood under Important Files)

	Outdoor Area/Trail	Location/Parking	Terrain/Difficulty	Points of Interest
Town Trails	Hapgood Wright Town Forest (aka (Fairyland Forest”))	Walden Street across from CCHS before Rt 2; paved parking lot for Concord residents only	Easy to medium difficulty: there are some steep inclines where kids may need help. Would not recommend a carrier over stroller.	Fairyland Pond; Umbrella Arts Sculptures in Fall
	Punkatasset Preserve Trail	Shoulder parking near #851 Monument Street	Easiest trail is Hutchins Pond Loop: Yellow trail to pond then red trail and connect back to yellow. Could be muddy in Spring.	Hutchins Pond; cool bridge on red trail before Old Orchard off-shoot trail
	Moore’s Swamp Trail (offshoot of Reformatory Branch Trail)	2 parking spots at the cemetery gate across from 256 Bedford St.	Easy, Jogging stroller friendly; tree roots in forest. Short walk.	Trail starts to the right of the stone stairs and goes along swamp, over a bridge and through the woods to the Reformatory Branch Trail and Patriot’s Day stone monument.
Town & CLCT	October Farm Riverfront	End of Balls Hill Road off Monument .	Different levels from easy to difficult. Easiest path (and jogging stroller friendly) is the main yellow blazed trail to the Sudbury River and along it; seasonal flooding.	Sudbury River; old boat house, beautiful views, Balls Hill.
Concord Land Conservation Trust	Nashawtuc Hill	Simon Willard Woods parking near end of Simon Willard Road is the best place.	Some roots and hills until you get the main trail along the river; jogging stroller friendly in places.	Egg Rock, river views.
	Hallenbeck Land	Park on Indian Spring Road; trail head is between #857 & #997 Lowell Road.	Easy but not stroller friendly as path could be muddy and you might have to walk on planks.	Interesting flora, bridges, streams, vernal pool.
	Corey-Bourquin Land	Barrett’s Mill Road between house #222 and #268.	Easy, stroller friendly loop that will take 20-30 mins.	Interesting trees, foot bridge, nice, short walk for kids.
Other	Great Meadows National Wildlife	Entrance between stockage fence after 177 Monsen Rd	Flat, easy, unshaded.	Observation tower, lookout pier, wildlife, lotus flowers in July.
	Bear Garden Hill (and access to Wright Woods)	Off Sudbury Road to the left of House #657	Moderate; some steep inclines depending on area.	Variety of trees and landscapes. Beautiful view of Sudbury River and Fairhaven Bay, south on trail by Robinson Well and old chimney in Wright Woods; dog friendly.
Bike Trails	Bruce Freeman Rail Trail	Park in the West Concord lot across from prison, or at Nara Park in Acton	Flat, paved trail.	Conservation Land, outdoor art exhibits.
	Reformatory Branch Trail	Park at 1) off Rt 62 after Bedford Children’s Center 2) Great Meadows, 3) Old North Bridge, 4) Trail’s End Café lot.	Flat, unpaved trail.	Trail goes past Moore’s Swamp and Great Meadows.
	Narrow Gauge Rail Trail	Park at Depot Park, Acton.	Flat, paved, shaded, short, great for children.	Short walk from Depot Park to Whole Foods parking lot.
	Minuteman Commuter Bikeway	Park at Depot Park, Acton.	Flat, paved	Goes all the way to Somerville.