Families with Children Guide

MIT offers a wide range of resources for families with children.

The MIT Center for Work, Family & Personal Life

*Location:* MIT Building 16-151  
*Tel:* 617-253-1592  

The Center offers MIT staff and students a broad range of services to assist with issues at the intersection of work, study and personal life, including child care, school arrangements, parenting, and work/family issues.

Parents can receive guidance on selecting child care and school programs and handling related concerns, as well as obtaining listings of programs, play groups, babysitters, and services for children with special needs.

Help is also available to those who would like to become licensed by the state to care for children in their own homes as family child care providers, or to find work as occasional babysitters, caring for children in the child's home. Individual consultations are available in person by appointment and group meetings are scheduled frequently.

Workshops and consultations are also available on such issues as balancing work and family, relocating to Boston from another country, time management, special needs, discipline, fathering, multicultural issues, bilingualism, giftedness, the transition to parenthood, school adjustment, separation and divorce, single parenting, adoptive parenting, and child development.

Call the Center to schedule an appointment or to be added to the mailing list, or drop by to browse the lending library and community bulletin board.

MIT Child Care Centers

MIT child care centers are administered through the MIT Center for Work, Family & Personal Life, and managed by Bright Horizons.

Technology Children's Centers
TCC is the campus child care network that offers care for approximately 136 children from two months of age to kindergarten entry at three campus locations: Eastgate, Westgate, and Stata.

Lincoln Laboratory Children's Center
LINCC is located in Lexington 1.3 miles from MIT Lincoln Laboratory on the campus of Minuteman Regional High School. LINCC offers care for approximately 102 children from two months of age to kindergarten entry.

MIT Support Organizations

spouses&partners@mit

Location: E23-230
Tel: 617-253-1614
http://web.mit.edu/spouses

Spouses&partners@mit is a support network sponsored by the Medical Department for the wives, husbands, and significant others of students, staff, and faculty. We can help in building a social network, learning a new language, and locating the resources they need to get settled.

spouses&partners@mit has been especially useful in making connections for newcomers and in helping them participate fully in MIT activities and in the larger community by helping them pursue professional, educational, and parenting goals, as well as cultural and volunteer activities.

Spouses&partners provides childcare at their weekly meetings and supports some parent-child play groups. Attend a Newcomers Office Hour (see the calendar for upcoming events: http://events.mit.edu/scripts/monthly_ext.pl?groupid=509&location=http://web.mit.edu/spouses/groups_and_activities/). Meet the spouses&partners@mit staff and get your questions answered. You can also contact Jennifer Recklet Tassi, the Program Manager by calling 617-253-1614 or emailing reck@med.mit.edu, or Dana Riechman, Program Assistant, at danalee217@hotmail.com. They can orient you to spouses&partners@mit, MIT, and the greater Boston community.

BabyNet

Email: babynet-info@mit.edu
http://web.mit.edu/babynet

BabyNet is a support network for parents organized by members and sponsored by
spouses&partners@mit, Residential Life Program, and The Graduate Student Office. BabyNet's general meetings provide opportunities for parents to connect with each other and for kids to play with other kids. BabyNet encourages and supports its members to form babysitting exchange groups where parents trade babysitting for free time for themselves on a regular basis. BabyNet also runs a database of parents who are interested in babysitting exchange on a one-time basis (e.g. for emergency situations). To learn more about upcoming events or to sign up for the mailing lists, visit BabyNet's website.

Center for Health Promotion & Wellness

Location: E23-205
Tel: 617-253-1316
http://web.mit.edu/medical/a-center.html

The Health Education Service, located at the MIT Medical Department, offers parenting classes such as childbirth preparation classes (for members of the MIT Health Plan), and infants and parent and toddler and parent groups for the entire MIT community.

What community resources are there for finding childcare?

West of Boston

Child Care Resource Center
Address: 130 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge, MA 02139
Tel: Phone (617) 547-1063
www.ccrcinc.org

CCRC works to ensure that all the resources and services children need to grow and learn are accessible to every family and that those resources and services are of the highest possible quality. All CCRC programs target low- to moderate-income families who come from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds and for whom access to education, skills development, child care, and health care is critical to their well-being and economic success.

Boston, Chelsea, Brookline, Revere and Winthrop

Child Care Choices of Boston
Address: 105 Chauncy Street, Boston, MA 02111
Tel: 617-542-5437
http://www.childcarechoicesofboston.org/index.asp

Child Care Choices of Boston (CCCB) is the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (CCRA)
for Boston, Chelsea, Winthrop, Revere and Brookline. As a CCRA, Child Care Choices of Boston provides and maintains a key role in making child care work for everyone, regardless of cultural, linguistic or ethnic background. We offer support, resources, technical assistance, training and child care expertise to families, child care providers, employers and the larger community.

**Massachusetts Office for Childcare Services**

*Address: Central Office 600 Washington St., 6th Floor, Suite 6100, Boston, MA 02111*

*Tel: 617-988-6600*

[http://www.qualitychildcare.org](http://www.qualitychildcare.org)

**How do I find information about preschools?**

**Cambridge Childcare Resource Center**

The majority of preschools in Cambridge are private schools. There are, however, two systems of public preschools in Cambridge.

Childcare and Family Support Service Division offer preschool programs. These programs are for Children aged 2 years 9 months to 5 years and are located within the elementary schools. Most programs have long waiting lists. Thus, you are encouraged to apply well in advance of your child’s anticipated start date. It is also possible to apply for a scholarship which can save you up to 50% of the tuition costs.

For further information, contact:

Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP)

*Address: 51 Inman Street, 3rd floor, Cambridge*

*Tel: 617-349-6200*

[http://www2.cambridgema.gov/dhsp](http://www2.cambridgema.gov/dhsp)

**Which towns have good school systems?**

We suggest that you contact the MIT Center for Work, Family & Personal Life for the answer to this question. The MIT Center for Work, Family & Personal Life can provide you with public and private school listings as well as community and school district data.

Other sources of information are:

A list of public schools in Cambridge is available online: [http://www.cpsd.us/FRC/Choosing_school.cfm](http://www.cpsd.us/FRC/Choosing_school.cfm)

Massachusetts Department of Education
http://profiles.doe.mass.edu

Cambridge Public Schools
http://www.cpsd.us/index.cfm

Boston Public Schools
http://boston.k12.ma.us

How do I find information about kindergartens and schools?
The MIT Center for Work, Family & Personal Life can be of great help. The center offers help with school selection and school related issues through personal appointments and a lending library.

For detailed information about a town's school system, check these resources from the Massachusetts Department of Education:

- Directory Profiles (search schools by town) http://profiles.doe.mass.edu
- Parent Information Center: 1-800-297-0002
- School information for Cambridge 'Kindergarten: Any child age 4 on or before March 31 may enter kindergarten in September. It is possible to take a school tour for new kindergartners from October through December. The first registration cycle is in January. By registering early you might have a better chance at choosing the schools you prefer.
- For further information please contact: Family Resource Center, CRLS Building - Registration Office 459 Broadway Street, Cambridge 617-349-6551 http://www.cps.ci.cambridge.ma.us

Where can I find other events and activities for my family?

- http://www.babyzone.com
- Boston Parents' Paper http://boston.parenthood.com
- The Children's Museum 300 Congress St, Boston 617-426-8855 http://www.bostonkids.org
- Museum of Science Science Park, Boston 617-723-2500 http://www.mos.org