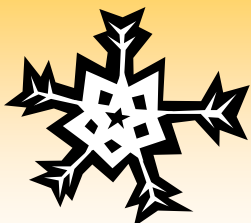




# Allston-Brighton Family Network News

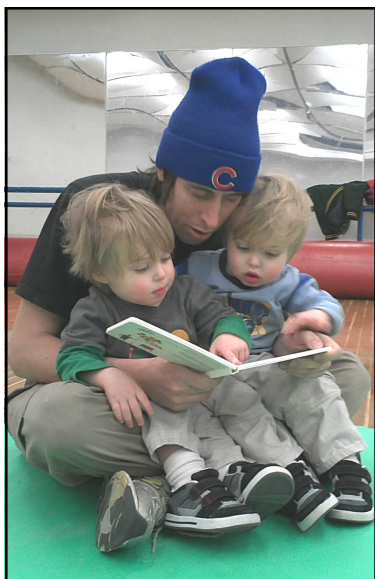
For neighborhood families with young children 0-4 years old

February 2012



## Inside this issue:

ABFN Playgroups	2
Feb. Calendar	3
News from ABC Thrive	4
Partner Programs	5



*At playgroup, we love reading books, and Daddy does too! After playgroup (at the library) we take home books and read every day!.*

## Family Activities Galore!

### Allston-Brighton Family Network (ABFN) Going Strong

So many resources, programs, and supports for families are available in the neighborhood! ABFN has added some new programs — read on! And ABC Thrive (see page 4) and all the partner organizations are adding to the mix. We thank all the funders (see list below) who allow us to provide for families what you want and need!

### Many Playgroups for Families

There is a Playgroup for everyone! A new **Parent-Baby Playgroup** is now meeting on Thursdays at the Brighton Branch Library. On **Tuesdays, two playgroups** are meeting at the Brighton Branch Library. On **Thursdays, a morning playgroup** is meeting at the Honan Allston Library. ABFN's **New Balance Tot Gym Playgroup** is meeting on **Wednesday** afternoons at the Jackson-Mann Community Center. See inside this newsletter for details on these playgroups.

Coming soon, two brand new playgroups will begin. A qualified leader is being sought to lead a **Playgroup for Spanish-Speaking Families**. (See page 5.) A new **Playgroup for Chinese Families** will also be starting soon, at the Honan Allston Library. Watch for updates next month!

### Collaboration is key!

The wonderful programs and services available in Allston-Brighton are the result of deep collaboration. The **“Allston-Brighton Baby Diaper Pantry”** is a great example of what happens when partners work together. One night a month, low-income families living in

Allston-Brighton can receive free diapers for their children. The organizations working together on the Diaper Pantry are Family Nurturing Center, Joseph Smith Community Health Center, and Jewish Family and Children's Services. ABC Thrive is currently seeking more funding to keep this important and needed program going. Watch for more on this in next month's newsletter.

### Parents are Involved!

The voices of parents are leading the way. Parents have attended Parent Advisory Council meetings and Community Board Meetings. Four Parent Ambassadors are on board. (See article on page 4 for more information.)

### Local Business are On Board

Look for information about events and programs at local businesses. Let them know you are glad that they are involved with ABC Thrive.

### Parents, join the Google Group!

ABC Thrive created an online Google Group for parents to use to communicate with each other. To join the ABC Thrive Google Group and get the latest updates, go to <http://groups.google.com/group/abc-thrive-parents/about>

### Spanish Version of Newsletter Coming!

Please let us know if you would like copies of this newsletter in Spanish. One copy, or several copies, will be mailed to you!

**ABFN is on Facebook!** Stay up to date on family activities. Search for us as Allston-Brighton Family Network.

Coordinated by Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts (617) 474-1143 x250

Funded in part by Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, New Balance Foundation, State Street Foundation, BNY Mellon Charitable Giving Trust/ Arthur F. Blanchard Trust, The Janey Fund, United Way, and Thrive in 5

# ABFN PLAYGROUPS, for Allston-Brighton Families with young children!

*Los Grupos Para Jugar para las familias con niños pequeños en Allston y Brighton!*

## ABFN Playgroups

Playgroups led by Elayne Baskin

Age-appropriate activities including sensory play, Circle Time, songs, parachute games and more!

**Tuesdays** at Brighton Branch Library  
10:30 am - 12:00 noon; **For 1 year olds**

3:00 - 4:30 pm; **For 2 year olds** (infant siblings welcome)  
(40 Academy Hill Rd., in Brighton Center; **free parking** behind library off Chestnut Hill Ave.)

**Wednesdays** at Jackson-Mann Community Center:

### New Balance TOT GYM PLAYGROUP

3:30 - 5:00 pm; **For 1 and 2 year olds**  
(40 Armington St., Allston; **free parking** in covered lot off Cambridge Street)

**Thursdays** at Honan Allston Library

(300 North Harvard St., in Allston)  
10:30 - 12:00 PM; **For 2 - 4\* year olds** (younger siblings welcome)

*\*4 year olds who are not in Boston Public Schools or Head Start*

Please choose ONE Playgroup per week, according to your child's age.

To sign up, contact Elayne Baskin at 617-474-1143, x250.

Leave your name and number clearly.

Or email [dbaesh@yahoo.com](mailto:dbaesh@yahoo.com).



*Playgroups are closed during Boston Public Schools snow days*

## Los Grupos Para Jugar ABFN!!

*por niños pequeños con sus padre de familia con la señora Elena Baskin*

*Vengan todos para jugar, cantar, leer, y hacer mas diversión con las familias de Allston y Brighton!!*

**10:30 am - 12:00 pm Los martes**  
Incluyen los niños de **1 año de edad**

**3:00 - 4:30 pm Los martes**  
Incluyen los niños de **2 años de edad**

**Estes grupos estan en la biblioteca al centro de Brighton**

(40 Academy Hill Road, Brighton, circa de Chestnut Hill Ave.; Puede parquear al lado de la biblioteca.)

**3:30 - 5:00 pm Los miércoles** al Centro de la Comunidad Jackson-Mann. **Tot Gym;**

Incluyen niños de **1 y 2 años** de edad.

(30 Armington Street, Allston; Puede parquear al bajo de la escuela Jackson-Mann.)

**10:30 am - 12:00 pm Los jueves en la biblioteca Honan Allston**

(300 North Harvard Street, Allston; Puede parquear detrás de la biblioteca Honan Allston.)

Incluyen los niños de **2 y 3 años de edad** y los niños de **4 años que no participan** en un programa en las escuelas publicas o en Head Start. (Hermanos pequeños son bienvenidos aqui, tambien.)



**Para se inscribe. favor de llamar a la señora Elayne Baskin, 617-474-1143 x 250 o escribale por email, [dbaesh@yahoo.com](mailto:dbaesh@yahoo.com)**

*Los Grupos Para Jugar estarán cerrados durante las dias de nieve de las escuelas publicas de Boston (BPS).*



## Parent-Baby Playgroup

*a gathering of Allston-Brighton families with babies!*

With Colleen McGuire



For babies under one year old - Come play and meet Allston-Brighton families with babies! Moms and Dads welcome.

**When: Every** Thursday, 12:30 - 1:30 pm;

**ALSO:** Once a month on Saturday, **Saturday Feb. 18, 1:00 to 2:00 pm.**

**Where: Brighton Branch Library, 40 Academy Hill Rd.**

For more information, contact Colleen at 617-474-1143 x250 or

[cmcguire@familynurturing.org](mailto:cmcguire@familynurturing.org)



# Allston-Brighton Family Network

For neighborhood families with young children 0-4 years old

# FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Tot Gym Playgroup	2 Honan Library Playgroup Baby Playgroup	3	4 
5	6	7 Brighton Library Playgroups	8 Tot Gym Playgroup	9 Honan Library Playgroup Baby Playgroup	10	11
12	13	 Brighton Library Playgroups <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15 Tot Gym Playgroup	16 Honan Library Playgroup Baby Playgroup	17	18 Baby Playgroup
19	 <i>President's Day</i>	21 Brighton Library Playgroups	22 Tot Gym Playgroup	23 Honan Library Playgroup Baby Playgroup	24	25
26	27	28 Brighton Library Playgroups	29 Tot Gym Playgroup <i>"Fitness Fun" Workshop</i>			

**ABFN Playgroup Locations**

Tuesday Playgroups, and Baby Playgroup (Thursdays) at Brighton Branch Library · 40 Academy Hill Rd., Brighton

Wednesday Tot Gym Playgroup at Jackson-Mann Community Center · 500 Cambridge Street, Allston

Thursday Playgroup at Honan-Allston Branch Library · 300 N. Harvard St., Allston

Coordinated by Family Nurturing Center (617) 474-1143 x250

## **Allston-Brighton Children Thrive News: Parents Are Leaders**

Allston Brighton Children Thrive (ABCT) is part of a ten year city-wide effort to make sure that every child who enters Kindergarten will be ready to succeed in school and in life. Because parents are a child's first teacher, we want to make sure that parents have what they need to prepare their young children for learning and for school. Parents are often the best source of information for other parents and can be leaders in this role.

For that reason, ABCT has created several "Parent Ambassador" (P.A.) positions. Our P.A.'s, who speak English, Spanish and Portuguese, work part-time to reach out to families of young children at the park, in the supermarket or library, wherever parents go, to connect them to resources they might need, from childcare to swimming lessons, from food stamps to help finding a pediatrician. They also listen to parents about their needs and take that information back to our Community Board, which develop new ideas for increasing or improving existing resources. I spoke with two of our P.A.'s, Heather Bucell and Yajaira Moore, about what they like best about their work. Both said

that they love helping parents find what they need, including connecting with other families. We would like to hire another Parent Ambassador, bilingual in English and Mandarin Chinese. Our Parent Ambassadors are also developing leadership skills that will improve their abilities to speak up for their own children as well as for other families. Recently, two of them attended a Parent Leadership Exchange course, run by Thrive in 5 and Boston Parent Organizing Network.



For Yajaira, the most important part of the course was learning to work as a group with other parents, working as a team and learning not to be afraid of being a leader. Heather found it helpful to learn what P.A.'s in other neighborhoods are doing and to see how our work in Allston-Brighton is part of a bigger picture. As a result of the course, they are planning a spring event at Jackson Mann Community Center that will include fun activities for

kids and information for parents. Watch for details!

There are other ways that we depend on parents' ideas in our work. Our Community Board meets monthly to make decisions about activities for young children and their families. The Board is made up of staff from organizations that serve families and neighborhood parents or caregivers who can tell us what families want and need. If you are a neighborhood parent, or other family member caring for young children (grandparents, relative, etc) we invite you to join our discussion on the third Wednesday of every month from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Childcare costs can be covered.

Our Board recently decided to add a separate Parent Advisory Committee that will meet on a regular basis. This is another way that parents or caregivers can help make decisions that will affect families and come up with new ways of helping families. We will provide childcare during the meetings.

For more information on anything mentioned here, please contact Randi Freundlich at 617-474-1143 x228.



### **ABC Thrive FEBRUARY Parent Workshop: Fitness Fun for Families**

**Date:** Wednesday, Feb. 29  
**Location:** Honan-Allston Library , Allston  
**Time:** 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Allison Benitez of Baby Boot Camp and Karna Fitness, will lead parents and children together in lively exercise done to familiar songs to help the whole family stay fit and healthy while having fun. **Ages 2 to adult.**



**To register, please call Ruth Smullin at (617) 275-3709  
 or email [rsmullin@familynurturing.org](mailto:rsmullin@familynurturing.org)**

**Job Opening at Family Nurturing Center for  
SPANISH-SPEAKING  
PLAYGROUP LEADER**

- 12 - 15 hours per week
- Lead 2 Parent-Child Playgroups per week
- Conduct outreach with Latino families

For more information:  
Contact **Randi Freundlich**  
(617) 474-1143, ext. 228  
Rfreundlich@familynurturing.org



Family Nurturing Center  
of Massachusetts

# Chinese Stories

Saturday, Feb. 4, 10:30 am

Join us for Chinese folktales every month (first Saturday of the month)! Artist and storyteller Limin Mo will weave wonderful tales followed by a hands-on activity. All ages welcome.



**Honan-Allston Library**  
300 North Harvard St. Allston

## First Time Homebuyers Class

at Harvard Innovation Lab  
125 Western Ave, Allston

February 14, 15, 21 & 23; 6:00 - 8:45 pm

- Introduction to mortgage process
- Dealing with credit issues

The class is required by many lenders for first time homebuyers; if you fall under certain income guidelines you may be eligible for special low-interest rate loans, down payment assistance, and closing cost assistance.

Class fee is \$35.

Pre-registration is required.

Call **617-787-3874 x35** or email  
[dalley@allstonbrightoncdc.org](mailto:dalley@allstonbrightoncdc.org) to register.

## Thom Boston Metro

555 Amory Street, Jamaica Plain

A certified Early Intervention Program serving infants and toddlers from birth to three years and their families in Boston area

**Early Intervention Services include:** Developmental Assessments; Service Coordination; Resource and Referral; Parent Support, Education, and Training; Home Visits; Playgroups

If you have concerns about your child's development please call:  
**Nancy Johnson**, Referral Specialist, at 617-383-6522

## Local Branch Library Events

### Faneuil Branch Library

(419 Faneuil St, Brighton) 617-782-6705

**Preschool Storytime** - Mondays at 10:30 am. Feb. 6, 13 & 27;; Ages 2-5. Stories and crafts.

**Lapsit Storytimes** - Wednesdays, 10:30 -11:00 am. Feb. 1, 15 & 29. Stories, songs, and finger rhymes for kids 0-2.

**Sing-alongs** - Thursdays, 10:30 am. Feb. 2 & 9. Sing along, clap your hands at a fun music program.

**Reading Readiness Storytime and Music Program** Fridays at 10:30am Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24 Ages 2-5 Explore concepts like the alphabet shapes and colors through books and activities. On **Feb. 10 & 24 Julia Priest** will explore literacy through song.

**Pajama Storytime** - Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 7:00 pm. Cider, snacks & stories to delight on a winter night. Ages 3 and up.

### Honan Allston Branch Library

(300 North Harvard St., Allston) 617-787-6313

**Fun Stuff for Preschoolers** - Tuesdays at 10:30 am - (ages 2-5). Story-time and hands-on activities.

**ABFN Playgroup** - Thursdays at 10:30 am

**Chinese Stories** - Saturday, Feb. 4, 10:30 am; Chinese folktales with LiminMo.



### Brighton Branch Library

(40 Academy Hill Rd., Brighton) 617-782-6032

**Baby Lapsit** - Fridays, 10:00 am\*. Ages 6-18 months with a caregiver.

**Toddler Storytime** - Fridays, 11:00 am\*. Ages 18 - 36 months with a caregiver.

**Preschool Storytime** Wednesdays, 10:30 am\*. Ages 3-5 with a caregiver.

\*If the Boston Public Schools are closed for holiday or inclement weather, storytimes are cancelled.

## Allston-Brighton Family Network

c/o Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts

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*Welcome Baby brings a one-time celebratory  
home visit to all families with newborns  
in Allston-Brighton.  
To receive a Welcome Baby visit and basket for yourself or for someone you  
know:  
After the baby is born, just call Welcome Baby at 617-474-1143 x250 and  
make a referral.*



## **WELCOME BABY PROGRAM**

- Celebrates the birth of a new baby
- Connects families with resources
- Promotes early child and family literacy