

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PLAY

The United Nations General Assembly designated June 11 as the International Day of Play. The International Day of Play campaign is coordinated by a large network of organizations.

The first celebration took place on June 11, 2024.

This year we are hosting our 3rd IDOP at the Boston Common, in our schools, childcare spaces, community organizations, libraries and health centers.



INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF PLAY

2025 CELEBRATION

At City Hall Plaza

32 City Departments and Community Orgs

Beyond City Hall Plaza

- *68 Boston Public Schools celebrated IDOP by hosting field days, extending recess, hosting dance parties, making arts and crafts projects, and more!*
- *Highlighting the play at BCYF year around.*
- *All 8 YMCA of Greater Boston Early Education centers hosted family “Stay and Play Days”.*
- *The Boston Children’s Hospital Early Intervention Program celebrated IDOP at Martha Eliot Health Center in Jamaica Plain.*
- *The LEGO® Group transformed the Greenway into a lively playground where kids can dive into hands-on LEGO® activities.*



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LEARNING THROUGH PLAY



Social Skills

*Collaborate,
communicate
& understand
other
perspectives.*



Physical Skills

*Understand
movement &
space by being
physically
active.*



Cognitive Skills

*Concentration,
problem
solving &
flexible
thinking by
tackling tasks.*



Creative Skills

*Coming up
with ideas,
expressing, &
transforming
them into
reality.*



Emotional Skills

*Understand,
manage &
express
emotions by
building self-
awareness.*



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At City Hall Plaza



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2026 CELEBRATION

- *34 City Departments and Community Orgs* will join us at the Common.
- *More than 80 schools* will host activities for children of all ages with the theme “UNITED We Play.”
- *BPS created a ‘International Games Booklet’*, which highlights outdoor games from each featured country to celebrate global cultures and traditions during IDOP.
- *Highlighting the play at BCYF and BPL* during that week and all year round.
- *All 8 YMCA of Greater Boston Early Education centers* will host “Stay and Play Days”.
- *Encourage Family Child Care providers* to host specific games through a guide shared by the BPHC to activate play in their spaces!



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JOIN US FOR INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PLAY!

June 11 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Boston Common

OPEN FOR ALL AND FREE!

Ping Pong Lawn Games
Bubbles Biking Arts
Sports Board Games
Music Crafts
Dancing Building Blocks

Bring your family and join the fun!
Learn more about the power of play
and the resources the City has to offer!



CITY of BOSTON City of Boston Early Childhood INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PLAY

SAVE THE DATE *June 11, 2026*

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PLAY

is coming to your school

BOSTON.GOV/PLAY

 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PLAY  City of Boston Early Childhood  **BOSTON**
Public Schools

SAVE THE DATE *June 11, 2026*

Join the celebration and host

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PLAY

at your organization

BOSTON.GOV/PLAY

 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PLAY  City of Boston Early Childhood



BEHIND THE SCENES: PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

- ***Engaged and Onboarded Partners***

Invited community organizations, City departments, and schools to participate; built strong relationships and offered tailored support to ensure their success.

- ***Coordinated Planning and Logistics***

Held one-on-one meetings with partners to understand their activation plans and needs; worked closely with Property Management to navigate permitting requirements.

- ***Developed and Shared Resources***

Created tools and materials—including a centralized webpage ([Boston.gov/play](https://boston.gov/play)), signage, and flyers—with support from the Digital Team to help partners host their own Day of Play events.

- ***Fostered Citywide Collaboration***

Partnered with BPS Wellness to engage schools, with BCYF to spotlight sports activities, and BPL to highlight reading across Boston, amplifying the reach and impact of the initiative.



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