

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We are building a family friendly Boston where our kids have the resources they need to thrive. To help us reach this goal, this summer, Mayor Michelle Wu's Office launched **Connect, Learn, Explore: Boston's Commitment to Youth**. By the time they turn eight, we believe all young people in Boston should:

- 1. Learn to Swim:** Families should have access to opportunities to practice swimming and safely enjoy the sea in our coastal community. Every child will have access to swimming lessons through the city's Swim Safe Boston program, which is offered through the YMCA of Greater Boston, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston and Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF).
- 2. Connect with the Arts:** Music, dance, theater, and art are essential for self-expression. To help our young people learn and develop, we will make instruments, artists, and other resources available to them.
- 3. Play a Sport:** Kids can learn physical skills, teamwork, and perseverance through sports. Every child will be able to select and take part in top-notch sports programs thanks to the support of BCYF, Boston Public Schools, and our partners in youth sports.
- 4. Learn to Bike:** Children can have fun and discover their community through biking. Every Boston child will have the chance to learn how to ride a bike thanks to the tools and support provided by the City in collaboration with community partners.
- 5. Grow a Green Generation:** Our youngest residents can develop a connection to nature by growing plants. All children will have access to plants and plant care thanks to community gardens and other outdoor learning spaces.

Your child has participated in a Connect, Learn, Explore opportunity this summer – congratulations! They received a card with this letter on which they can document the skills they have learned. When they have completed all of the activities, they will receive a grand award sticker and can participate in our annual celebration. More details are available on our website at Boston.gov/kids

Best,

Kristin McSwain

Director, Office of Early Childhood & Senior Advisor to Mayor Wu