

## NORTH READING TOWN MEETING CHILDCARE INFORMATION

**Q: Do I need to reserve a spot for my children?**

A: It would be greatly appreciated for planning purposes though a reservation is not required.

**Q: Who do I contact with questions or to sign-up?**

A: North Reading parent Barbara Thorstad, [barbara\\_thorstad@hotmail.com](mailto:barbara_thorstad@hotmail.com), 978-276-1106

**Q: What will the childcare service provide?**

A: Activities, games, crafts and movies.

**Q: What should I bring to the childcare service?**

A: Please bring your child's essentials such as a change of clothes, diapers and bottles. Parents may bring anything safe and reasonable including a labeled, peanut-free snack/drink, portable DVD players and games, sleeping bags, pillows and strollers.

**Q: Who is sponsoring the free onsite childcare service?**

A: North Reading High School

**Q: Who may use the service?**

A: Any North Reading resident attending Town Meeting on Monday, June 7, 2010.

**Q: Where will the childcare service be held?**

A: At the North Reading High School in Wing D, which is centrally located to the Town Meeting rooms. Please enter the High School using the main entrance or the gymnasium entrance and follow the signs marked "Childcare." The main entrance is closest.

**Q: What time does childcare check-in start?**

A: The Town Meeting begins promptly at 7 p.m. Check-in for the childcare service starts at 6:40 p.m. to allow parents enough time to get their children settled and still be on time for Town Meeting. However, children can be checked in at any time during Town Meeting and voters are permitted to enter Town Meeting at any time during its duration. Parents will need to sign a one-page parental consent form before leaving their children at the childcare service.

**Q: What time does it end?**

A: Town Meeting must end by 11 p.m., and is likely to end earlier than that on June 7. The childcare service will be available for the duration of the meeting. Parents may pick up their children from childcare anytime they choose.

**Q: I'm going to Town Meeting for the budget vote. What time will that be?**

A: It isn't possible to schedule an exact time for the budget vote, because articles are taken in order. All articles are important, but the two that impact education most are the town and school operating budget and feasibility study funding for the secondary schools project. Please note that anyone wishing to leave Town Meeting prior to the close of business should do so quietly and respectfully, though we encourage voters to stay as long as possible to participate in all important decisions regarding North Reading.

**Q: Can my child come to Town Meeting with me at 7 p.m. and go to the childcare service later in the evening?**

A: In an effort to minimize any disruption and potential prolonging of Town Meeting, the Town Clerk has requested that parents exhaust all other options before bringing their children to Town Meeting rooms. Registered voters are always given priority seating at Town Meeting. If the main seating hall is full of registered voters, there will be overflow seating provided (with audio) in alternate seating halls. Please note that the Fire Department code requires that each person attending Town Meeting has his or her own seat so a child may not sit on the floor or on a lap.

**Q. Who will supervise the children at the childcare service?**

A: Supervision will be provided by North Reading High School Student Council and Interact Club members as well as some of their parents. The North Reading Police Department is providing background checks on all supervising adults. Adult and student volunteers will be required to sign in and sign out and will wear name tags and arm bands so children can readily identify "safe" caregivers.

**Q: What will be done to ensure the children's security?**

A: The North Reading Police Department will be onsite for the duration of Town Meeting and continues to offer support and guidance regarding security for the childcare service. Parents will need to sign in his/her child and sign a waiver/data sheet in order to leave a child at the childcare location. A child will be released back to his/her parent after the parent provides a signature and proper identification to a supervising adult. No person will be permitted to enter the childcare location (Wing D) without clearance from a supervising adult. Children needing to leave Wing D to use the restrooms will do so with supervision.

**Q: What will be done to ensure my children's safety?**

A: If during the course of the Town Meeting the parent needs to attend to his/her child, the parent will be notified (preferably by cell phone set to a silent mode). Parents may leave a peanut-free snack/drink for their children. With parental consent, the children may also have peanut-free snacks/drinks provided by the childcare service. Diaper changes may be made by supervising adults or parents may request to be notified if their child needs a diaper change. First aid can be administered but parents will be notified immediately.