

# Whole Family Children's Program To Be Launched At Piti's New Arts and Ecology Center



*A young worker bee investigates nectar sources.*

Outdoor time anyone? Piti Theatre, an award-winning theater troupe based in Charlemont will be launching Bee and Blossom, a program designed to encourage nature and arts exploration for ages 0 - 8 this fall. The venue is Piti's large barn and 34 acres of land on Avery Brook Road in Charlemont, seven minutes west of Shelburne Falls.

Elana Kirshenbaum, one of the program's co-teachers explains, "Research clearly shows that children who learn and play in nature are healthier mentally and physically, so we will be offering abundant play outside while incorporating an arts themed activity each week. Our hope is that children end their day with 'dirty feet, messy hair and sparkling eyes' embodying the spirit of joyous discovery."

Piti Theatre Co-Artistic Director Jonathan Mirin adds, "Having experienced the joys and challenges of homeschooling ourselves, we are thrilled to offer this community-building support to new (and less new) parents and their children."

Co-teacher Laura Josephs, who also performs in several of Piti's touring shows, adds, "Before beginning to work with Piti Theatre a few years ago, I was a teacher at an outdoor education program in Texas. I am excited to put my artistic and outdoor education experiences together with younger children. My best memories from childhood are largely running around outside with my friends."

Bee and Blossom welcomes children from infancy through age 8 and runs from September-May. Sessions are held weekly on Fridays with options for attendance from 10am-2pm or until 3pm. While children aged 0-2 must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver, those 3 and older may be dropped off. Limited transportation can be provided for families in the Greenfield area. Bee and Blossom is offered on a sliding scale where families can choose their rate based on their financial means. For more information and to register, families are invited to visit [ptco.org/bloom](http://ptco.org/bloom)

Other West County programs Piti is offering this fall include:

- Valley Playwright Mentoring, a program where teens create a show inspired by their own stories
- Youth Troupe, an afterschool theater program where actors ages 7 - 12 use improvisation to create their own play
- Choreography Workshop for dancers ages 12 and up

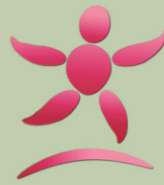
More @ [ptco.org](http://ptco.org)

*Piti Theatre Company was founded in 2004 by American playwright/actor Jonathan Mirin and Swiss choreographer, dancer and visual artist Godeliève Richard. We're based in Shelburne Falls, MA and Les Ponts-de-Martel, Switzerland. Piti (pronounced "PEA-tea") is an ancient Indian (Pali) word translatable as "joy" or "rapture." Piti programming plants seeds of joy, sustainability and justice. Learn more at [ptco.org](http://ptco.org)*

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*Piti theatre*

## Bee and Blossom

Whole Family Nature + Arts

Welcoming ages 0 - 8 in Charlemont

[ptco.org](http://ptco.org) (508) 439 - 2069

## Other Programs

*Valley Playwright Mentoring:* Teens create a show inspired by their own stories

*Choreography Workshop:* Dance making for ages 12+

*Youth Troupe:* Actors ages 7 - 12 use improv to create their own play

