

Growing Places



Where Love and
Learning Grow Together

gazette

Spring 2010

Early Care, Education, and
Youth Recreation in
Durham Lee Madbury
New Hampshire

A Non Profit Agency

Our Mission

Growing Places provides quality child care, educational enrichment, and youth recreation programs in a safe and caring environment which supports families in raising responsible, respectful, and resourceful children.

Our Programs

Infant Toddler Program

Pinkham Road, Lee

Pinkham Preschool

Pinkham Road, Lee

Woodside Preschool

Strafford Ave, Durham

Our Time School Age Program-Moharimet

Elementary School,
Madbury

Camp Cowabunga/ Bridge Camp ~ Durham and Madbury

www.growingplacesnh.org

603-868-1335

The Week of the Young Child: Strength through Community

Here at Growing Places, every day is centered around children; from the behind the scenes planning and curriculum, to classroom management, to the daily interactions between each child and staff member. To put it simply, we love what we do. We know the importance of an early education in which children can make secure attachments, learn about themselves and their communities, and partake in a wide variety of experiences to challenge and stimulate their minds. *The Week of the Young Child* (this year celebrated April 11-17) is an annual celebration through which the Early Childhood community showcases the importance of what we do. It is often a week full of special guests, wonderful performances and new and exciting activities. But it is not necessarily about going BIG—it is about letting our community and the world know how much we value children.



The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is the top association of early childhood educators. Led by early childhood professionals, parents and people most invested in the education of young children, NAEYC provides a strong voice for teachers and child care centers across the world. NAEYC produces countless resources for parents and teachers and in turn it is our job to help spread the word about the importance of an early education. Advocacy and education is a primary focus of *The Week*.

Family involvement and support is perhaps the most important piece. We ask families to join in our festivities and celebrate with us. Children love to share similar experiences between home and school, and what a better way than to bring them together. These shared moments send a message to the public saying “look at what we value!”, and, more importantly, the children receive the message: “Look at what we value—**you**, your family, your shared experiences your time with us at school!” What a wonderful message to send to our children, the children we are collectively in this for together.

Pulling off *The Week* is not always an easy task. It takes a lot of preparation. Our goal is to plan a fun-filled “out of the box” week, and also provide age appropriate activities, and remember that we are reaching out to the public.

When we look back on the Week of the Young Child, and all of the things we did, we encourage our community to think about the messages we send to our children within the Growing Places’ family. These messages help our children become stronger individuals, help us as we support one another, and give our community a sense of what we believe in. As always, the continued support and caring of our parents and friends make this week possible every year, and help us make a positive impact on the lives of the children we serve. THANK YOU!

~Alicia June, M.Ed, Toddler Teacher

Growing Places Community Portrait: Meet the Ramsay Family



We'd like you to meet Dave, Dassie, Wolfe, Will, and Drew Ramsay, who recently moved to Durham from Nottingham. Will currently attends Growing Places' Woodside site.

The Ramsays love to spend time with the extended family and friends that make up their community. They especially enjoy frequenting area playgrounds, going for walks/bike rides, and eating pizza at La Festa in Dover or visiting Kaleidoscoop or the Dairy Bar in Durham. Legos are popular in their house.... as is after-dinner wrestling! Dave works for a company called B-line Medical- they develop specialized software for medical school education. His company is based in DC (where the family

lived for 7 years before moving here), so he works from home and travels to his office several times a month. Dassie is a licensed clinical psychologist and used to work at the UNH Counseling Center. Currently, she focuses her energy on the boys and community involvements such as serving on the Growing Places Board of Directors, volunteering in Wolfe's first grade class, and teaching at Temple Israel of Dover's Hebrew School. Here is what Dassie has to say about her experiences at Growing Places: "What we love about Growing Places is the sense of community we feel. The families, teachers, and all who are involved have helped us feel a part of the "Family". Our son Wolfe started at GP when he was three and came home everyday sharing that he had had "a great day!". Now Will, our middle son is at GP. He enthusiastically starts his day with "is it a home day or a school day?" When he learns it's a "school day" he gets really excited. We expect that our youngest son, Drew, will feel exactly the same once he makes his way to GP. Equally as important as the sense of community we feel, is the sense of partnership we have experienced at GP. Will spends a large part of his week at GP with his friends and teachers. The warm atmosphere coupled with the open and caring communication between us as parents and Will's teachers have helped us to feel confident. Together we are growing a happy, confident little boy who is getting exactly what he needs to eventually venture into the world, and continuing to develop in a happy and healthy way. We feel so lucky to have joined the GP family; even when our children are 'graduated', we look forward to staying connected with this amazing agency for a long time to come!"

Cash In the Attic ~ GP's Virtual Garage Sale

"Cash in the Attic" is an ongoing project that aims to bring our Growing Places community of families and friends together to contribute to our fundraising efforts. Think of it as a virtual garage sale; participants donate items that they no longer use/need and we (parent volunteers) list them on Craig's List and handle the entire sale. The money earned from the sale goes directly into the budget to help enhance and support the amazing programming that Growing Places puts forth. We piloted the program through the Woodside Preschool 2 classroom of families in April and have already earned over \$600!

We are expanding the program and want to encourage you to consider what unused items you have around your house that might be taking up much needed storage space or simply collecting dust- electronics, instruments, small appliances, sporting equipment, furniture, strollers, play yards, etc. If you are willing to donate one or more of these items to Growing Places, we will do the rest. We are hoping to collect items worth \$50 or more. All you need to do is identify what you might like to contribute and get in touch with a "Cash in the Attic" volunteer to review what you would like to donate. We will come to your home to pick up the item(s) at a day/time that is mutually convenient, take care of listing/selling the item(s), keep you posted on their status, and provide updates on the amount raised per classroom and per site.

Please do not hesitate to contact our parent volunteer, Dassie Ramsay, if you have any questions about items you might be interested in donating or about how you can get involved to help with this effort. She can be reached by phone: 603.866.1865 or via email: ramfamnh@gmail.com. We hope to hear from you!

Growing Places Board of Directors

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Bev Shadley

Written by:

Sue Chase

Cellissa Hoyt

Alicia June

Dassie Ramsay

Please direct questions, comments, or suggestions to: Sue Chase, 868-1335

growingplacesnh.org

Scenes from A Day of Caring pictures by Alicia June



30 Liberty Mutual volunteers came to Growing Places' Pinkham Road site on Wednesday May 12 to help us renovate our playgrounds. As part of United Way's Spring Day of Caring, these volunteers spent a full day completing more than 10 projects with natural materials, including building a new slide, tepee, shelter, gardens, grassy areas, platforms, and tables and chairs made out of tree stumps. Materials were provided by donations from our Fall Auction!!! Special thanks goes to Brocks, Matt Tomassetti, Jesco Construction, Poppke Property Maintenance, New Beginnings Farm Stand, Slide Innovations, and 125 Fence for making these projects possible!

Needed Funds Raised at Spring Events

We owe much thanks to Katie and Doug Wheeler, who opened their doors for a Growing Places party on April 29. With the help of two very generous donors, who matched proceeds for the evening, **the party raised over \$12,000** for children's programs at Growing Places. Cellissa Hoyt, Executive Director, and Alyson Mueller, Board Vice President, both spoke about their respective experiences at Growing Places. Alyson's perspective as a parent, and how she feels about Growing Places' support of her children and her family was quite moving. Cellissa also emphasized that Growing Places is a strong community organization and recounted one family's experience of adoption and how GP teachers played a vital role in the transition of one little boy. We are grateful to the Wheelers for their ongoing help and support.



We'd also like to thank Durham Marketplace for donating proceeds of a recent Spring Fling BBQ to Growing Places. Pictured left is Sarah Bombaci (Seafood Manager), Mike Grillo (Meathouse Manager), Perry Shaw, Store Manager, Cellissa Hoyt, and Pam Shaw, Customer Service Manager.

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From Cellissa's Desk

Help Us Get the Word Out!

Summer Camp Enrollment is Happening Now!

There are still a few openings left at Camp Cowabunga and Bridge Camp!

Growing Places Camps are directed and taught by experienced long term teachers of Growing Places. Our Camps offer low teacher to child ratios,

Daily swimming, weekly field trips, and fun weekly themes! Part time and full time schedules are available for children ages 5 to 11. If you would like your child to have a fun, safe summer, please contact us!

Infant Toddler Openings

We have 2 openings for Infants or Young Toddlers, starting June 28. Please pass this along to family and friends!

Cash In the Attic Items Needed

Please see a great article on page 2! In addition to helping Growing Places, this program promotes recycling and repurposing which is great for the environment!



Growing Places Children's Champions



JESCO CONSTRUCTION

