

Growing Places



*Teaching Children to be Capable,
Confident and Compassionate*

Gazette

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

a Non Profit Agency

Spring 2013

Nurturing Curiosity and Investigation of the Natural Environment

Written by Cellissa Hoyt

Our Mission

Growing Places provides early education programs that foster the development of the whole child.

Our Programs

Infant and Toddler Program

Pinkham Road, Lee

Preschool, PreK/ Kindergarten

Pinkham Road, Lee

Preschool, PreK/ Kindergarten

Strafford Ave,
Durham

Our Time After School Program

Moharimet Elementary School, Madbury

School Age Summer Camps

Moharimet Elementary School, Madbury

603-868-1335

www.growingplacesnh.org



Think back to childhood and visualize for a moment your favorite outdoor place to play as a child. What did it look like, feel like, sound like? What sorts of games did you play there? What did you discover there?

As a young child I was always drawn to any-place outside. I loved to build forts, carve “rivers” into dirt and pour in water. Until I was 10 we lived in a house that had a really cool playhouse in the yard, it was small with a shingled roof and lattice walls that had greenery growing up two sides. In my “house”, I created a cooking area, a sleeping area made from a pile of leaves and pine needles, and a place to do art projects sitting on the floor. Anyone in our neighborhood knew that the baby carriage I pushed around was more likely to be filled with a family of toads or worms than a with a baby doll. What is the most memorable to me is the feeling that I could create, imagine, and invent anything I wanted to. I had few time constraints, I was just free and open to be wherever my mind took me. These are the kinds of experiences we want to foster for Growing Places children.

Children’s development is directly affected by the amount and quality of time spent outdoors. We are passionate at Growing Places about giving children experiences outside that include active play, and that foster a

deep appreciation for the wonders of the natural environment.

For the last few years at Growing Places, we have been adding more natural elements to our outdoor spaces. We have a vision and a plan for much more to come!

We are kicking off this spring with a professional training day on Friday, May 17, by immersing ourselves in a full day of training at Nature’s Stepping Stones in Barrington, a nature based enrichment program.

We are also working with the UNH Sawmill and volunteers to replace and add to the nat-



ural elements on our playgrounds. We are building a new lean-to, benches, chairs and tables, outdoor easels and more from hardwood logs. Grant money combined with our programming budgeted funds mean we will have lots of new things on our playgrounds to engage children later this spring!



Last summer children spent hours building with wood “cookies” and logs and we will have an even greater supply this summer thanks to the UNH sawmill!

Building Relationships

“To say that building relationships with young children is important seems so obvious as to be hardly worth mentioning—and that is the problem. It is so obvious that we don’t give it much thought; don’t go in to what it really takes to build relationships, and so, don’t often try to fully understand what it takes to build relationships with children”.

This is the caution offered by George Scarlett in his article “Building Relationships with Young Children”. Here are two excerpts:

“...Adults need to understand that attachments are fostered by a variety of small acts rather than by making physical contact. That is, in early childhood, attachment is not simply or mainly about physical contact and being held. It is about someone noticing what a child is doing and understanding a child’s goals (‘I see you are making a green curvy line!’). It is about providing help when help is desired and needed (‘You want help tying your shoes? Okay, but let’s do it together’). It is about being an ally when trouble arises (‘You say Billy took your marker. Let’s go have a chat with Billy’). Fostering and maintaining positive attachments with young children means, then, doing a variety of little things we may normally do but without thinking of them as fostering attachments...”

“With respect to communicating better, today’s diverse classrooms require us to become more adept at communicating differently depending on the child. Some children take a friendly and reasonable way of communicating as a license to misbehave. Others take any hint at sternness as an indication that an adult is mean. Today’s teachers need, then, to figure out what their ways of communicating mean to each and every child—and adjust their ways to meet the needs and meanings of each child. When it comes to communicating and relationship building, one size definitely does not fit all.”

Reprinted with permission from Child Care Exchange



Photo by Kate Harris Photography, courtesy of NH Community Loan Fund



Photo by Kate Harris Photography, courtesy of NH Community Loan Fund



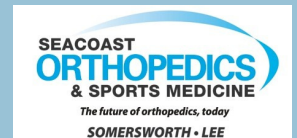
At Growing Places teachers see the unlimited potential in each child and recognize the opportunity and responsibility we have to help children build a strong foundation for future success.

Growing Places teachers understand that every moment matters: their interactions are respectful and responsive, validating children’s feelings.

Teachers model and encourage the development of healthy and trusting relationships amongst children and the world around them.

Our Newsletter

Sponsors



Growing Places Family Portrait: The Worden Family



It is said that education is about teaching children in many different forms. What I was about to learn, however, is that Growing Places was not only implementing this philosophy of care within the confines of the classroom, they were also approaching interactions with the families in the same thoughtful manner.

My call made to Michelle Guthrie was filled with fear and a degree of worried desperation that I wish upon no one. My son's current daycare came to me saying they were no longer qualified or staffed to provide adequate care for my son given his numerous special needs. I was stunned. The only other local early childhood learning centers I was aware of were UNH and Growing Places. I knew from living in the area for so long, that the wait list at both locations was very long. But what I knew deep to my core was the fact that I would do anything I could to secure the best possible care for my son and place him in an environment sure to help him succeed socially, emotionally and academically.

"Good morning, Growing Places, this is Michelle" is how our story began. Wait list be damned! Our conversations, teemed with understanding, compassion, acceptance and kindness, was reassuring beyond words I could ever express. I was overwhelmed with the feeling of hope when, without pause, Michelle invited us for a visit. I am sure she could sense my fear and apprehension during our phone call, yet she discerned that this was far more about the child than about the wait list or any other barriers.

Eight years later, we still hold fast to our regard for Growing Places and regularly attend various avenues of care that are offered. Surely Michelle will always be special to us, however, our experience has been that this very same level of compassion and care extends to each staff member we have encountered at Growing Places. I am forever grateful. And I am ever willing to share my story of the true meaning of education to all who might listen.

Our family is spelled MIME—Mom (Brenda), Isaiah and Milo Edward. Isaiah, (10 1/2) attends Our Time afterschool program and has attended the Summer Camp program each year for many years. Isaiah was born with a disease that ravaged his immune system compromising his health since birth. He has severe hearing loss and various other special needs. Although Isaiah has struggled mightily with his health related circumstances, he has put forth a tremendous effort over the years to succeed and seamlessly garner new and lasting friendships. His video games, sports, Legos and insect finds are some of his most favorite activities. He also adores his kitty, Milo who seems to find such solace in the lap of his buddy at the end of each day. Isaiah is currently in 4th grade at Mast Way Elementary School in Lee, NH.



Teachers

Becca Bergman
Emily Buchan
Katie Dugay
Sarah Hastings
Jen Hayward
Celeste Hume
Becca Kelly
Emily Kluun
Lindsay Michel
Kate Milne
Meara Rose
Julie Scadova
Alexis Scangas
Kim Snow
Robin VanGundy

Program Directors

Hillary Hughes
Shane Krafton
Sarah Nason
Wendy Rousseau

Director of Operations

Michelle Guthrie

Executive Director

Cellissa Hoyt

Board of Directors

Madiha Farag
Pam Gill
Amy Leone
Katy Lilly
Alyson Mueller,
President
Laura Price,
Secretary
Dassie Ramsay,
Vice President
Chris Regan
Lisa Taylor
Kathy Watts,
Treasurer

Agency Advisors

Matt Goldberg
Bev Shadley



School Age Summer Camps at Moharimet Elementary School

Ages 5 to 12 years

When School is Out, Come Have Some Fun!!

Back for the 2nd year—sign up for **swimming lessons through UNH**. The lesson will take place during the camp day for your convenience!

New fieldtrips planned this summer include the Boston Children’s Museum, Charmingfare Farm and Liquid Planet Water Park!

A few of the fun and creative themes—Mad Science, Winter Wonderland, Gold Rush, Shipwreck and more!



The Rubber Ducks are Back!



Quackfest—Saturday, May 4, 11:30-2:00 at Jackson’s Landing in Durham—Join for lots of wonderful children’s activities, enjoy the Oyster River Middle School Jazz Band, and cheer on the rubber ducks as they race toward the finish line! Buy your ducks ahead of time at any Growing Places site beginning April 17!

SAVE THE DATE—The Wheeler Party, Wednesday, June 5, 6:00-8:00 pm—Join us for an evening of delicious appetizers, drinks and warm, friendly spirit at the home of Katie and Doug Wheeler—Once again we have the **very generous match challenge**. The first \$5000 raised will be matched dollar for dollar giving us the opportunity to raise \$10,000 with this event!

A Generous Offer to Growing Places

Two Local Realtors who are also Growing Places Board Members, have both made a very generous offer to support Growing Places. If you buy or sell a home or make a referral to someone else who buys or sells with them, they will donate \$250 to Growing Places!

“Let’s help Growing Places grow!”

Madiha Farag

603-767-7767 Cell

603-397-1210 Direct 603-868-1113 Office

madihafarag@masiello.com

“Help support Growing Places!”

Alyson Mueller

603-978-6944 Cell

603-610-8900 Office

alysonmueller@kw.com



www.growingplacesnh.org

“Like” us on Facebook

