

Our Mission:

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

Our Programs:

Lee Early Childhood Site

6 weeks ~ 6 years
56 Pinkham Road
(603)868.1160

Director: Kim Snow

Teachers: Francesca Antezana
Alex Cousins
Michelle Guthrie
Shane Krafton
Lindsay Michel
Kate Milne
Julie Scadova
Victoria Sicard

Durham Early Childhood Site

2~6 years
60 Strafford Ave
(603)868.5674

Director: Hillary Hughes

Teachers: Jillian Calderara
Sarah Hastings
Emily Hoagland
Celeste Hume
Becca Kelly

School Age Programming

5~12 years
(603)969.8677
Moharimet Elementary School
Director: Jessica Tennis

TimberNook Programming

5~12 years
Moharimet Elementary School

Program Administrators

Sarah Nason
Wendy Rousseau

Executive Director

Cellissa Hoyt

Board of Directors

Dassie Ramsay, President
Pam Gill, Vice President
Kathy Watts, Treasurer
Amy Leone, Secretary
Katy Lilly
Kathryn Mone
Chris Regan
Jessica Starkey
Kate Haley Webb

183 Years and Counting!

Collectively our staff have dedicated *over 183 years to Growing Places* and over 200 years to the field of Early Childhood!! This amazing statistic is rarely achieved in this field and is recognized by community members and other early childhood professionals.

The staff's longevity and passion paired with their desire to provide the most enriching experience for all children is clearly evident within minutes of walking in to any of our programs. This high caliber of care is built upon highly educated professional staff, organizational collaboration and ongoing professional training.

We are only a few months into our school year and have already had many amazing educational opportunities. We launched the start of our school year with Stacy Kramer, Executive Director of Big Brother Big Sisters of Portsmouth NH on a Colors Personality Profiling training. She shared the importance of recognizing and appreciating diversity in our individual learning styles and then enlightened us with insight on how to most effectively connect and interact with others.

Later this Fall, we hosted Scott Noyes to lead a seminar on Intentional Language. Our staff along with other area Early Childhood programs and community members were treated to a very enriching discussion on the importance of the words we choose to use with children.

We also completed our NAP SACC (Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care) training, which enhanced our practices in nutrition and physical activity.

Growing Places truly believes that the strength of a program starts with a strong base, our teachers; and then radiates out to the children and the families we partner with. Together we provide high quality early education experiences which lay a very sound and strong foundation for each child's future.



A Nonprofit Early Care, Education and Youth Recreation Organization

56 Pinkham Road, Lee, NH 03861 | 603.868.1335

www.growingplacesnh.org

Durham | Lee | Madbury



Strong Family Ties to Growing Places....

Written by Wendy Rousseau with excerpts from Kathryn McWhirk and Kate Milne

It all started back in the early 90's when Kathryn McWhirk enrolled her two children, Matthew and Tyler with us. The recommendation came from her sister, Beth Setear, who was serving on our board. Beth had been the organizations first pre-school teacher in 1978 and then later the agency's director. Her daughter Caitlin also attended when Kathryn chose to enroll her boys.

Like many other new families, Kathryn's heart strings were pulled on as she left her boys to be cared for by others. She would at times leave with tears in her eyes as she pulled away from the center and headed to work. As the bonds grew stronger and she saw just how much her boys loved going, she was able to head to work comforted and put at ease knowing that they were in great hands.

It wasn't long before Growing Places began to feel like extended family to Kathryn and becoming a board member herself seemed like a natural thing to do.

Eventually Kathryn's boys aged out of our program and headed off to public school. Kathryn still continued to devote her time and energy to Growing Places through her active board work. In time, her ties to Growing Places shifted as her family moved on to new adventures of public school life.

Over twenty years later, Kathryn and Matthew reconnected with Growing Places when Matthew enrolled his daughter, Addie. They had been very happy with Addie's home care program but decided she was ready for a more traditional preschool setting.

Growing Places quickly came to mind as an option to explore based on their personal experiences. Although they were not sure if the program would have the same level of quality as it did so many years ago. When reaching out to inquire with Growing Places they were beside themselves when they heard that Kate Milne (who was Matthew's teacher) was still with the organization and that she was teaching in the classroom that Addie would be in. The decision to enroll was "a done deal". They were thrilled to hear how many other Growing Places' staff were still there as well. Kathryn said "You just don't get that. It is just phenomenal!"

When Kate heard the news that Matt's daughter, Addie, would be joining her room she couldn't believe that much time had really gone by! When first seeing Matt, Kate flashed back to all those years ago to when he was the very same age. Kate feels honored when thinking that Matt's lasting impression of his early childhood experience is one which he wants his daughter to experience as well. Kate feels so excited seeing how her relations with this family has come full circle. With a large smile, Kate said "seeing the whole family again, felt like being reunited with old friends".

A bond that a family forms with their child's early childhood teacher often feels like extended family and is a very important partnership that we truly treasure. We believe that children benefit greatly when the adults in their life are able to communicate and collaborate to create the most positive and enriching early childhood experience for their child(ren).



Pictured above: Matt & Kate 1992

Pictured below: Addie & Kate 2015



Classroom photos of Kate, Matthew, Tyler and Caitlin circa 1992



Matt, Tyler, Kathryn and Addie 2015

Benefits of Outdoor Winter Play

Excerpts by David Reeves

Outdoor winter play has long been blamed for colds and the flu. Our parents told us “Bundle up or you’ll catch a cold” and their parents probably told them the same thing. But winter play gets a bad rap. Although going outside unprepared for the elements is unwise, viruses that are spread by other human beings are what causes colds and the flu.

There are plenty of excellent references for winter safety tips provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics that explains proper clothing, winter health and so much more. With the right preparation and understanding of winter weather, your child can have as much fun in the cold as he or she does in the sun!

Here are just a few of the benefits of outdoor winter play:

Breathing fresh air is very welcoming to your physical & mental being. Therefore the more time you spend outside will strengthen your autoimmune system and build resistance to allergies. Nothing is more refreshing than that first deep breath of cold, winter air before starting hours of fun outdoor play. Studies have shown that children in rural areas or those who are active outside have the best overall health.

Just because it’s cold outside doesn’t mean your children have lost their energy or desire for physical play. In fact, the



California Childcare Health Program states outdoor winter play “gives children an opportunity for a change of environment, a balance in play and routine, and large muscle activities (gross-motor development).” You must remember your child is still growing during these months, and prolonged sessions of inactivity are not conducive to their muscular development.

The winter also offers a variety of ways to stimulate your imagination through play. Does your child like to build things? Build a snow fort in the backyard with tunnels and a home base. Do you have access to a park? Go for a wildlife hike and look for birds and other woodland creatures. With all of the technological advancements of the past decade, many children are using their imaginations less and less. Something as simple as building a snowperson utilizes problem solving and imaginative skills. So bundle up and embrace all the winter wonders!

Beyond the Walls at Growing Places

The importance of outdoor play for children is highly valued by our staff. The open ended exploration offers an abundance of wealth and richness to a child’s total well being. This past year our organization has taken our commitment to outdoor education a step further by becoming a TimberNook provider. TimberNook is an innovative nature-based developmental program designed to foster creativity, imagination, and independent play in the great outdoors. Our passion for the TimberNook philosophy has not only been evident in the nature based camps we ran over this summer and fall, but also has spilled over immensely into our everyday programming at all of our sites.

We look forward to continuing our outdoor journey embracing the importance of every aspect of this play. In fact, we have already started planning to take our outdoor play beyond our playgrounds and will utilize the natural wooden play areas around us. For more information on TimberNook and upcoming programs please call 603.868.1335 or visit our website.



Upcoming Events:

- Saturday, February 14 UNH Hockey Fundraiser (call 868.1335 for discounted tickets)
- Wednesday, March 4 Art Show~
6-7:30pm Moharimet Elementary 11 Lee Road Madbury
- Full Day School Age Program during Feb. school vacation (call 603.868.1335 for more information)
- Thursday, April 2 Wheeler Party

Organizational Announcements:

- We are collecting: dress up clothes, sheer curtains & fabric, metal cookware (pots, pans, cookie sheets, utensils, ladles, cupcake tins)
- Limited half and full days are available to add to your child's schedule on a drop in basis. Please see your Program Director for more information.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS...

Fall Day of Caring and UNH Serves



Two Westinghouse employees building an insert for a playground sink

Once again we feel overjoyed with the volunteerism offered by community members. We were fortunate this past Fall to have two days of amazing help at our Pinkham Road location.

The first day was our fall Day of Caring in September by the fearless volunteers from Westinghouse and our very own parent volunteer-Brian! Their hard work and creative wood working skills were put to the test and as you can see by the picture on the left, they took on the challenge quite well when they built an outdoor mud kitchen!



UNH volunteers pose for a picture after hours of raking

Our second day came on a cool day in early November when several students from UNH joined forces to take on a tremendous Fall clean up. Their hours of raking made our grounds look fabulous!

We are beyond grateful for all of the time and hard work both groups gave to Growing Places!

ALYSON MUELLER

REALTOR/ASSOCIATE BROKER
603.978.6944
alysonmueller@kw.com
Serving NH and ME Markets
KELLER WILLIAMS COASTAL REALTY - BERKSHIRE
Proud Supporter of Growing Places!



Bamford, Dedopoulos & Regan, PLLC

Coppal House Farm
Corn Maze, Pumpkins, Wagon Rides & More!
118 North River Road Lee, NH 03861 / 603.639.3572

