

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: Lindsey Colbath

Katie Gray

Michelle Guthrie

Shane Krafton

Alyssa Medico

Lindsay Michel

Kate Milne

Julie Scadova

Durham Early Childhood Site

2~6 years

60 Strafford Ave

(603)868.5674

Director: Hillary Hughes

Teachers: Jillian Calderara

Sarah Hastings

Becca Kelly

Emily Kluun

Floating Teacher

Ashley Studer

School Age Programs

5~12 years

(603)969.8677

Moharimet Elementary School

Director: Francesca Antezana

TimberNook Programs

5~12 years

Moharimet Elementary School

Program Administrators

Sarah Nason

Wendy Rousseau

Executive Director

Cellissa Hoyt

Board of Directors

Dassie Ramsay, President

Kathy Watts, Treasurer

Amy Leone, Secretary

Brooke Fleit

Katy Lilly

Kathryn Mone

Chris Regan

Jessica Starkey

Kate Haley Webb

A Huge Thank You to Growing Places' Hidden Treasures

By Wendy Rousseau

There is quite a lot that goes on behind the scenes at Growing Places and our Board of Directors is a big part of it! Their support ensures a sound base for the work we do. More than half of our board members have served between 4-8 years. That in itself is a commitment and dedication to acknowledge and be grateful for!

If you have ever served on a board, you know the importance of having members who bring a diverse range of experience and skills; this provides strength and expertise in various areas. As a group, our board has a wealth of knowledge in areas helpful to Growing Places such as financial, legal, medical, marketing/branding, social well being and community relations. Together they are a powerhouse team that provides strength to our organization. Over the years, thanks to their drive and passion, they have teamed with staff and strengthened our business related to policies, strategic planning, financial planning, and fundraising events.

At a past board meeting, members shared how being a part of this like minded group has impacted them. It didn't take long to see a common thread that drew them to serve. Most of them sharing that their decision came after attending one of our events (ie Art Show, Auction, Corn Maze) and also learning about our mission and philosophy and just how much it resonates with our families and community at large. Board members shared how they enjoy working with other committed and engage members using their skills to help guide informed decision making that supports the power of quality early childhood programming!

When asked what the most rewarding initiative or project they have worked on over the years on the board, a variety of answers were shared. The list was quite extensive and included: marketing & fundraising work, strategic planning, creating our new logo & branding, building & playground transformations, events, fostering community among our families, relations with the larger community, committee work and of course becoming a TimberNook provider!

Clearly Growing Places' empowering board members have helped make our organization well rounded and balanced with a strong commitment to the children, families and community we serve.

If you would like information on how you can become more involved with our board or event committees please contact Cellissa at cellissahoyt@growingplacesnh.org. We have a wide range of volunteer opportunities available.



Front Row: Dassie Ramsay, Katy Lilly, Jessica Starkey, Pam Gill, Kathryn Mone

Back Row: Amy Leone, Kathryn Watts, Kate Haley Webb, Chris Regan

New to the board (not pictured): Brooke Fleit—Welcome!!

A Nonprofit Early Care, Education and Youth Recreation Organization

56 Pinkham Road, Lee, NH 03861 | 603.868.1335

www.growingplacesnh.org

Durham | Lee | Madbury



“Parents can’t afford to pay, teachers can’t afford to stay, there has to be a better way!”

By Cellissa Hoyt

Evidence is overwhelming that a child's earliest experiences lay the foundation for lifelong learning and health. Yet early childhood programs and families struggle to manage the financial burden of a system that is vastly under resourced. Fortunately, leaders in the granite state and the nation are recognizing this. And we are taking advantage of every opportunity to shine the spot light on the importance of children’s early learning and to find ways to do more for children, for families and for early childhood teachers who do this important work. Highlighted below are a few of the exciting initiatives underway.

NH Public Television Visits Growing Places

PBS is developing a documentary to air nationally called “Raising America – Early Childhood and the Future of our Nation” which explores how a strong start for all our children leads to healthier, safer, better educated and prosperous America. NHPTV and the Endowment for Health are producing a companion television program called “Raising NH” which airs November 5th and will focus on early childhood development and the future of our state specifically related to giving children quality early learning experiences! NHPTV visited Growing Places to see and video tape a program in action. For a sneak peek at “Raising America” visit <http://raisingofamerica.org/preview-series>



Early Childhood Leaders Participate in WMUR’s “Conversations with the Candidates”

As the presidential primary approaches we have seized an opportunity in NH to speak to those running for president about the importance of children’s early learning; these Conversations with the Candidates are sponsored by Save the Children Action Network. Candidates answer questions in a “town hall” format to help NH voters get informed about where they each stand on all the important issues. Because of our involvement in work statewide to strengthen early childhood programs, Cellissa has participated in several of these forums and has had the opportunity to partake in the small reception following each. These have provided an even closer connection and insight to candidates and their views on early childhood education.

WMUR’s NH’s Business

Fred Kocher, the news business host of NH’s Business on WMUR, brings community leaders on to his show to discuss the importance of children’s early learning and brain development and how this impacts the future of our state. Fred believes that quality early childhood education is a work force issue because children are our future employees and community leaders. Guests on Fred’s show to speak to this issue have included Steve Rowe, President of the Endowment for Health, Matt Mowry, Editor of Business NH Magazine and Jackie Cowell, Executive Director of Early Learning NH. To see the most recent taping, visit <http://www.wmur.com/money/is-nh-making-a-connection-between-workforce-early-childhood/30788866>

NH Coalition for Business and Education

This informal group of NH leaders has a commitment to improve education in NH so that NH businesses and the NH economy can remain healthy and competitive. They have included early childhood learning as one of their overarching areas of focus. Specifically this group is advocating for funding for the Seacoast Early Learning Alliance (SELA) which is helping early childhood programs save time and money that is then redirected to quality for children; Growing Places is a founding member of SELA.

Seacoast Early Learning Alliance (SELA)

SELA is an innovative, shared service approach that is helping early childhood programs strengthen business practices and improve program quality so children get a better start. Growing Places is one of the 10 founding members of SELA which has grown to 28 in NH. Since fall 2014, Vermont and Maine joined SELA with 35 members from each state making us the first tri-state shared service alliance in the country; expansion is planned in all three states. As the SELA Project Director, Cellissa was invited to San Francisco this past June to present the model at the National Shared Service Conference; 200 early childhood leaders from 30 states gathered at this conference to learn about a variety of innovative shared service approaches that are having a profound impact on early childhood programs. For more information about SELA and how we benefit at Growing Places, visit <http://growingplacesnh.org/childcare-philosophy/innovative-work/>.



Reasonable Risk-Taking: Why Your Children Need to Take Them

Excerpts by Angela Hanscom (for full article visit: balancedandbarefoot.com)

One of our most basic instincts is to protect our children – from all harm, pain, and any conceivable discomfort. However, if children never experience challenges that they must overcome themselves, how will they ever learn how to deal with daily life experiences when they are older?

Children *need* daily opportunities to take reasonable risks and challenges in order to develop into strong and capable children. A reasonable risk is any action, activity, or behavior that starts with careful consideration and results in taking a leap toward the edge of safety or danger.

Ways reasonable risk-taking benefits kids:

Practice of Independent Thinking and Self-Reflection: When a child considers a risky decision, she practices the process of decision-making in a matter of moments. “Should I jump from this log to the ground?” Once she makes a decision to take a leap, she must evaluate the decision. Taking time to reflect on the outcome of an action taken is incredibly important. Did the risk lead to success? Or, was it not the best plan to take? Thinking about what to do differently next time leads to more strategic, thoughtful risk-taking in the future. Each time she goes through this process, she strengthens her independent thinking skills.

Improving Strength and Safety Awareness: In order to stimulate the senses and develop healthy motor skills, children need the opportunity to take reasonable risks. A child’s neurological system was designed to seek out the sensory input it needs on its own in order to reach the next developmental level. By taking daily risks, children start to develop age-appropriate strength, coordination, and body awareness.

Development of Social Skills: Although some risk-taking is done independently, children often take risks while interacting with others. Reasonable risk-taking allows kids to find and utilize their voice among peers. The risk itself might be to share an idea with friends. Reasonable risk-taking allows kids to develop the assertiveness and self-confidence they need to participate positively in social settings. Practice and more practice help the young risk-taker learn to balance assertiveness with respect and compassion.

Cultivation of Confidence: A good dose of reasonable risk-taking in play results in a comfortable willingness to make mistakes and learn from failure. For instance, let’s say a boy skins his knee climbing a rock wall, but in the process -- learns that he can still reach the top. This assurance that a child can overcome obstacles quickly translates to other risky-life decisions presented in childhood. Choosing to step onto the school bus for the first time or signing up for the school play are decisions that kids confront with confidence if they’ve practiced reasonable risk-taking. This confidence is key in childhood psychological development. It’s important that kids learn the excitement of success, the coping skills needed to move through failure and frustration, and the perseverance to try and try again, even if it is uncomfortable and hard.

It’s important to encourage risk-taking in our children on a regular basis and at an early age.

For instance, the next time you see your child attempt to climb up a small rock, let them. Simply be present and spot if necessary. Overtime, as your child masters this skill, slowly phase yourself out. Overtime and with frequent opportunities to master new challenges, your child will become independent and confident with taking more and more physical, emotional, and social risks.



Upcoming Events:

- **TICKETS ON SALE NOW:**
Juston McKinney Comedy Show & Silent Auction
Fri., Sept. 18th 7 pm at The Governors Inn, Rochester, NH
- **Coppal House Farm Corn Maze & Family Fun Day**
Sun., Oct 18th 3-5 pm, Lee, NH

Please call 868.1335 for more information on any of our upcoming events or to purchase tickets!

Organizational Announcements:

- We are collecting: dress up clothes, sheer curtains & fabric, metal cookware (pots, pans, cookie sheets, utensils, ladles, cupcake tins), yarn
- 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.
- We have a few spots remaining for full and part time. Please call for more information on availability.

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

Going Beyond our Traditional Playground into the Woods at Pinkham Road

A HUGE thanks to Mr. Marotte (current Growing Places grandparent) for clearing the wooded area at our Pinkham Road site in preparation for our volunteer day. The clearing of over growth paved the way for the fearless leaders from Liberty Mutual!

Within hours they were able to transform this area into a beautiful and useable outdoor classroom space. We are excited to venture our play into the woods!!



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