



**Fall 2022**

## Season of Change

It is hard to believe that fall is upon us! They say time flies when your having fun and the months have certainly flown by for us at Growing Places! Fall is quite possibly my favorite time of year, it brings so many changes that can be experienced through all the senses. This time of year not only brings changes in our natural world but also at our all of our programs. In the fall we welcome new friends, settle into new classrooms and begin new routines. Children form new friendships, start tackling new skills and learning new curriculum.

Even more changes are coming to Growing Places. Our building project at our Lee location on Pinkham Road is underway. It has been a slow and steady process but we finally have approval from the planning board and the green light on building permits. To prepare for the demo we have spent many hours hauling files, furniture and materials into storage. Our offices have been temporarily moved to Durham and the Lee location is all abuzz excitedly awaiting for demo and construction to begin.

We also moved our PreK kiddos into the upstairs of the back building at our Lee location. The children and teachers are loving being in the same building as everyone else. At a recent staff meeting the teachers noted that they feel so much more connected to one another and the PreK children just by having them in the same building. It is also so nice that siblings are crossing paths and able to see each other throughout the day. Feeling this sense of community is a great reminder of how important this project truly is.

Best,

Amanda Toupin, M.Ed.

Executive Director

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Early Education and Youth Recreation

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## Playing at Pinkham

Our friends at Pinkham have been learning all about our Fall season! Friends here have been talking about the changes that we see and feel outside to incorporate into their daily activities. Preschool friends made "Fall Soup" with pinecones, acorns, twigs, colorful leaves, and feathers. They have also been doing lots of art activities with the fall colors that we see every day to paint and make colorful leaf stencils with. Both Preschool and PreK have been working on fine and gross motor skills using apples and pumpkins to hammer in nails and golf tees. PreK friends have been reading lots of books, with "There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Leaves" by Lucille Colandro being the current classroom favorite! Our Toddler friends have been doing some stamp activities using corn to roll into paint on big sheets of paper to make a mural together. Our baby friends have been welcoming new friends and teacher, Carrie to our classroom! They also brought the season into their classroom by using colorful leaves to make collages on sticky paper, and exploring leaves and small branches that we find outside.

Together all of our friends have been doing lots of exploring outback! We have found lots of turkey feathers lately and even had a baby doe visit out back playground one morning. Just recently our friends worked together to build a fort outback using long branches and sticks to lean against a large tree branch. Children worked together to collect and carry big branches and even decorated it with feathers, leaves and woodchips. While waiting for the front building to be demoed our Preschool and PreK friends did some color mixing activities and painted the front building. We are eagerly waiting for construction to begin and can't wait for new endeavors!

Bailey Coish  
Pinkham Program Director

***Special thanks to our Board Members for all of their support!***

***Erik Ickes, President; Alyssa O'Brien, Vice President; Earl Murphy, Treasurer; Leigh Perret, Member; Shane Krafton, Member***



## What's Up at Woodside

Here at Woodside we have settled into our new classrooms and routines. We have enjoyed welcoming new kids and TA's and have we also have a lot of familiar faces returning to our school. It has been wonderful to have parents back in the building! Being able to share what we have been doing inside, having them explore the classroom with their kiddo and being able to chat has been fantastic.

Both classrooms have been focusing on friendship, "All About Me" and emotions to start the school year. Now that fall is here we will be diving into many themes including, changes of season and apples and pumpkins. One of our favorite things has been getting outside to see the fall changes around our school. The children also love being able to identify the trees around our school community.

Becca Kelly  
Woodside Program Director



## Updates at Our Time

Our Time has been enjoying the beautiful fall weather and seeing all of the changes in nature that Autumn brings. We've been enjoying building extensive forts using logs and sticks, cracking acorns for the resident chipmunks, researching various spider species, animal and insect identification using some cool National Geographic mobile apps, and recording the beauty and interest that we see in nature in the Our Time Field Journal! We have been focusing a great deal on community building this school year and building each other up with bucket list ideas of enrichment we'd like to accomplish and offering "superstar shoutouts" for any exceptional behavior that a fellow student or teacher witnesses at Our Time. We have been off to a high energy and kindhearted start to the school year and can't wait for more adventures together!

Erin Evans

School Age Program Director

Sarah Knox

School Age Site Coordinator



## Operations

Happy Fall!!! Our construction project in Lee is getting started and we have temporarily moved our main offices to a space in Durham. We are all settled in, including having our services switched over so we are still available by phone, fax and email.

The start of the school year is always busy for me updating all of our families' billing accounts. Be sure to check your myprocare.com account regularly to review your account. As always, please reach out with any questions!

Sarah Nason

Assistant Executive Director

### ***Did you know?!!***

*Growing Places provides professional development for all of our staff and TA's. Our professional staff participate in 18 hours of face to face, out of classroom, workshops and trainings each year! Most recently our staff attended "Growing up Wild" with NH Fish and Game*

## Marketing and Outreach

I have had a busy and exciting start to the school year! For the first time since 2019, we were fortunate to have the opportunity to benefit from the Granite United Way Day of Caring. On Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> a team of volunteers from Lonza Group Portsmouth came to our Woodside location to give us a hand with some much-needed playground maintenance. They spent the day weeding, raking, and spreading sand and mulch, as well as repairing and replacing some of our playground structures. We are so grateful for their hard work and their company's dedication to helping the community.

I also want to thank everyone who came out to our 8<sup>th</sup> Fall Family Fun Day at Coppal House Farm! It was so wonderful to FINALLY be able to spend time together outside of the classroom. It was a chilly Fall morning to be on the farm but the laughter and smiles coming from children and families kept us all warm throughout the event.

Looking for where to find me next? Come find me at Durham Parks and Rec Downtown Trick-or-Treat on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2-4pm.

Emily Kluun

Marketing and Outreach Coordinator



Thank you to our sponsors!!! Your support is essential in the success of our organization!!

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