



Happy Fall!

Fall 2023

It has been a busy start to the school year! In September, at our Pinkham Road location, we opened with our new 3000sq foot addition. This enabled us to open an additional classroom, which was desperately needed in our community as many families struggle to find quality child care for their children. We are thrilled to offer ten additional spots and welcome new families from our waitlist.

At our Woodside location, our classrooms are abuzz with many 4 year olds! This year, in addition to our preschool room, we have two Prekindergarten classrooms to accommodate all of our older kiddos. Our PreK teachers have been enjoying collaborating across classrooms. It has been neat to see so many friendships fostered throughout the center.

Our school age program also endured some changes this school year. Currently we are offering before school programming as well as programming during teacher workshop days, vacations, and summer camp. COVID seemed to change the landscape of school age care so we continue to adjust with the needs of the community.

All of our programs are off to great start and we are excited to see what the school year brings!

Warmly,

Amanda Toupin, M.Ed.

Executive Director



Early Education and Youth Recreation

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A Special Dedication



Every year we are fortunate to be able to participate in the United Way Day of Caring. This year our group of volunteers had a special task to complete. In tandem with the completion of the addition at our Pinkham Road site, volunteers from Lincoln Financial Group and Lonza built a gazebo on the day of caring. The funds for this gazebo, in part, came from donations solicited for the project. Children at the center collected rocks to assemble a rock garden. The whole space was built through a collaboration of our community and was dedicated to Growing Places former Executive Director, Cellissa Hoyt.

A Little History and Cellissa's Work With Growing Places

In the late 70s, a group of small non-profit childcare centers came together to create "Friends of Durham Day Care". In 1996, with Cellissa leading the way as Executive Director, those same childcare centers officially merged to form what we now know as Growing Places. Even prior to Growing Places official beginning in '96 and concluding in 2018 when she resigned from Growing Places, Cellissa Hoyt molded, nurtured, and led Growing Places to what it is today.

In addition to her work at Growing Places, Cellissa has spent much of her career dedicated to improving quality for all early childhood programs across the state. She is one of the founding members of the State Early Learning Alliance, which is a shared service model to help early education programs strengthen their business practices and enhance program quality. Cellissa is a true champion in early childhood education and Growing Places is proud to honor her.



Cellissa Hoyt, former Executive Director of Growing Places

Fall Fun

Our annual Coppal House event was a success. Families from all of our programs joined us for cookie decorating, pumpkin pounding, and of course, the corn maze. While it was muddy from all the rain that we have been getting, that did not stop our kiddos from adventuring through the maze!



Join the Mission

Growing Places is able to offer quality programming to our community because of our volunteers, donors and sponsors. If you are interesting in opportunities with Growing Places reach out to Emily Kluun at emilykluun@growingplacesnh.org or Amanda Toupin at amandatoupin@growingplacesnh.org



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



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