

# Alternatives For Children



[www.alternativesforchildren.org](http://www.alternativesforchildren.org)

SPRING 2017

## ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN 11TH ANNUAL PICK A READING PARTNER – WE TREASURE READING

Learning to read is the single most important activity in a child's education. Studies show that children who read at home are better prepared to succeed in formal education. PARP-Pick A Reading Partner is a program that asks parents (or any adults who play an important role in a child's life) to read with their children for at least fifteen minutes daily, stressing the fact that reading can be fun as well as informative.

This year our PARP program was expanded to the whole month of March. Families were invited to participate in our Pirate PARP in as many ways as they could. A calendar was sent home with suggested daily activities, other than reading, for families to enjoy.



In keeping with the PARP pirate theme, teacher Nicole Coscia in Dix Hills, had her students make boats at home to bring to school. The children then tested their boats to see if they would sail and float, blowing them with straws and using turkey basters to create wind.

**As you can see the kids had a great time! Shiver Me Timbers! Reading is Fun!**

## ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN AQUEBOGUE & SOUTHAMPTON QUALITYSTARSNY 4 STAR PROVISIONAL RATING



Learning Environment  
Family Engagement  
Qualifications and Experience  
Management and Leadership

This past Fall, Alternatives For Children's Aquebogue and Southampton locations began the lengthy process of obtaining a QualityStarsNY Child Care facility rating. The qualifying application has been accepted and we have received notice from QualityStarsNY congratulating our program on receiving a 4 Star Provisional Rating.

Staff at our East End locations will now prepare for a QualityStarsNY assessor to physically observe each room to evaluate it on the many known indicators of quality requirements outlined in the Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) tool.

An arduous process for sure, but well worth the time and effort of our staff. With a QualityStarsNY rating, it is not us, but an independent evaluator, saying to the community and our parents that Alternatives For Children provides quality care.

**QUALITYstarsNY**  
a winning beginning for all our children



# Alternatives for Children

## Mission Statement

To provide the highest quality special and regular education programs and services to children with disabilities and typically developing peers.

Education, medical, pediatric rehabilitation, and support services are integrated to ensure the comprehensive needs of the child and family are met.

14 Research Way  
East Setauket, NY 11733  
631-331-6400  
Preschool Programs  
Child Day Care  
Early Intervention Services  
Universal Pre-K  
Administrative Office

1116 Main Road  
Aquebogue, NY 11931  
631-722-2170  
Preschool Programs  
Child Day Care  
Early Intervention Services  
Universal Pre-K

600 South Service Road  
Dix Hills, NY 11746  
631-271-0777  
Preschool Programs  
Child Day Care  
Early Intervention Services

168 Hill Street  
Southampton, NY 11968  
631-283-3272  
Preschool Programs  
Child Day Care  
Early Intervention Services

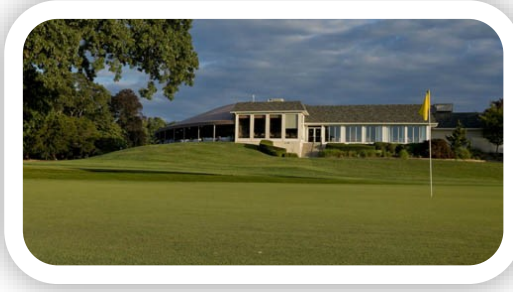
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## ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

These are uncertain economic times for not-for-profits like us. ***Now more than ever Alternatives For Children is in need of your support.*** We wait on the NYS budget and any changes in federal Education Department regulations that determine funding for the essential programs we provide annually to ***more than 500 children and their families.*** We invite you to seriously consider becoming a sponsor of, or playing in our ***Golf & Tennis Outing*** this year. We are also asking you to help us in ***expanding our reach*** by extending your personal invitation to like-minded people, colleagues and friends, and asking them to join with us in ***Making a Difference in the Life of a Child with Special Needs!*** As Helen Keller said, ***“Alone We Can Do So Little. Together We Can Do So Much.”*** As always, thank you for your generous support! See you on June 1st!

*Marie E. Ficano, Ed.D.*



**Huntington Crescent Club Golf Course**  
Featuring 6,403 yards of golf for a par 70



**Test out your Wimbledon skills**  
on the grass tennis courts

We need your help in soliciting items for our Basket Raffle & Silent Auctions which are a BIG part of our Golf Outing!  
Gift Cards/Gift Certificates to your favorite Restaurant, Beauty/Nail Salon, Day Spa, Gym

Golf Items/Gift Certificates to a favorite Golf Course  
Tickets for Sporting Events  
Thank you for your Support!  
Contact Susan Ennis at 331-6400 ext. 229

## ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

Each year, Alternatives For Children is required to notify parents of their rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act regulations (FERPA) to:

- Inspect and review the student's education records.
- Seek amendment to the student's education records that the parent believes to be inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights.
- Consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records.

Alternatives For Children will comply with a request for access to records within forty-five days of a received request and respond to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of records. If a parent believes the education records relating to the student contain information that is inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the student's rights of privacy, he or she may ask Alternatives for Children to amend the record.

**For More Information on FERPA and your rights as parents visit our website**

[www.alternatives4children.org/confidentiality-parents-rights.html](http://www.alternatives4children.org/confidentiality-parents-rights.html)  
<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>



Alternatives for Children will work together with families to answer any questions, and help access information needed.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN  
12TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

**Huntington Crescent Club**  
**Thursday, June 1, 2017**

15 Washington Drive • Huntington • NY 11743

**Sponsorship Opportunities**

**Platinum Sponsor - \$5,000**

**Awards Dinner Sponsor**

- ◇ Golf foursome with caddy
- ◇ Prominent corporate signage at venue
- ◇ Sponsor Board
- ◇ Hole Sign
- ◇ Four additional guests for dinner
- ◇ Affinity Membership
- ◇ Donor Wall, Newsletter Mention

**Gold Sponsor - \$2,850**

**Barbeque Lunch Sponsor**

- ◇ Golf foursome with caddy
- ◇ Prominent corporate signage at venue
- ◇ Sponsor Board
- ◇ Hole Sign

**Silver Sponsor - \$1,500**

**Registration Sponsor**

- ◇ Play for one golfer
- ◇ Prominent corporate signage at venue
- ◇ Sponsor Board

**Hole in One Sponsor - \$500**

- ◇ Company name on Hole in One Sign

**Hole Sponsor - \$325**

- ◇ Company name on Hole Sign

**Day's Events**

- 10:30 am Registration
- 11:30 am Brunch
- 12:30 pm Shotgun start
- 5:00 pm Cocktail Hour & Dinner to Follow
- Silent Auction & Basket Raffle

\_\_\_\_\_ I will bring a foursome to this year's outing,  
\$1,600 foursome entry fee enclosed,  
\$620 tax deductible. Includes brunch, dinner,  
greens fee, cart, caddy, putting contest for four.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will play in this year's outing, \$400 individual entry  
fee enclosed, \$155 tax deductible. Includes brunch  
dinner, greens fee, cart, caddy, putting contest.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will play in this year's tennis tournament, \$275  
individual entry fee enclosed, \$95 tax deductible.  
Includes brunch, dinner, tennis play, use of equipment,  
one-hour clinic with the club's 2 tennis pros.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will sponsor a hole in this year's event,  
\$325 enclosed per hole sponsorship,  
fully tax deductible

\_\_\_\_\_ I will sponsor a Hole in One in this year's event,  
\$500 per Hole in One sponsorship, fully tax deductible

I will be an event sponsor for this year's Outing  
\_\_\_\_\_ Platinum Sponsor \$5,000  
((\$3,720 tax deductible)

\_\_\_\_\_ Gold Sponsor \$2,850  
((\$1,950 tax deductible)

\_\_\_\_\_ Silver Sponsor \$1,500  
((\$1,275 tax deductible)

\_\_\_\_\_ Dinner only @ \$125 per person = \_\_\_\_\_  
I cannot attend, but please accept my donation of  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to Alternatives For Children 14 Research Way East Setauket, NY 11733

Credit Cards accepted - Visa, Master Card, American Express

REGISTER ONLINE on or before May 20th at [www.alternatives4children.org/golf](http://www.alternatives4children.org/golf)

Card Type \_\_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Golfer #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer #3 \_\_\_\_\_ Golfer #4 \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN AQUEBOGUE  
CELEBRATES WOYC WATCH IT GROW – PLANTS WE EAT!

Week Of the Young Child is an opportunity for our school to be part of an annual event sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the world's largest early education association. The purpose of WOYC is to recognize that the early childhood years lay the foundation for a child's success in school and later in life.

This year our WOYC theme at all our schools was, Watch It Grow - Plants We Eat, and was all about STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math, but mostly science!) The children spent the week doing hands-on science work; exploring seeds and planting; learning songs and poems about plants; were involved in a multitude of sensory activities mostly involving DIRT and getting messy; reading books about seeds, plants, vegetables, fruits and so much more!

Our families got involved at home, with suggestions from staff, on some fun educational science and literacy activities for the children and their parents to do together. Families were encouraged to expand their meals by trying some new vegetables and fruits. We asked families to take a walk in the great outdoors and see what plants they could discover and decide whether or not you can eat the plant! And, as we do with any of our special curriculum events, we encouraged families to go to their local library, get their child their very own library card, check out some books, and take advantage of all the great resources and literacy activities available at our public libraries; instilling again the idea that literacy and reading are lifetime adventures!



ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN DIX HILLS  
WESTERN SUFFOLK BOCES COLLABORATION

Recently, Alternatives For Children Dix Hills began a collaboration with Western Suffolk BOCES' Center for Alternative Education at the Wilson Technological Center in Dix Hills. Alternatives For Children, under contract with BOCES, is providing child care services for the children of female teen parents who are continuing their education.



The Wilson Tech Center provides for students ages 16 to 21, who have an insufficient number of credits to graduate high school. These young women enroll in a five-step program, which helps prepare them to take examinations for graduation. Small classes and individual instruction helps these students progress at their own pace. These young women can also take advantage of career and technical education programs offered at Wilson Tech or participate in a cooperative work experience, gaining essential life skills and preparing them for the possibility of future employment.



With over twenty-nine years of early childhood experience, Alternatives For Children is able to offer quality care for these babies, toddlers and young children. These young mothers can then concentrate on continuing their education knowing that their children are in a caring and safe natural learning environment where they are receiving the best care and are being encouraged to become independent, self-confident, and curious learners.

Making a Difference - One Child at a Time!

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN DIX HILLS  
EAGLE SCOUT SERVICE PROJECT

Last October, Eric Kramer of Boy Scout Troop 309 Dix Hills contacted Vivienne Viera Curriculum Coordinator at Alternatives For Children Dix Hills, and proposed to her his Eagle Scout Project that would benefit the students. Eric's project was to include in the preschool playground permanent hardscape installations that would create a stimulus enriched environment for the children.

Eric visited our East Setauket location to find inspiration for his project. He was taken with the pergola, where many sets of wind chimes hang, and the thunder wall. Eric, with the help of his Eagle Scout Project coach, reimagined and redesigned these elements to fit into the Dix Hills playground.

On a sunny Sunday in April, Eric, along with eight other Scouts and some adult suggestion makers, brought his vision of a planting garden and auditory sound rich space for the children to life.

We are so thankful to Eric, and are proud to partner with him on his road to Eagle Scout! A young man displaying exemplary leadership skills and commendable community service!

Play Learn Grow



Eric also constructed and installed 2 planting garden tables. "The planting garden," said Vivienne Viera "will give our children the opportunity to roll up their sleeves and dig in the dirt. The Science lessons the teachers will be able to prepare using the new structures in our playground are endless and will speak directly to the Common Core Science Standards."



Eagle Scout Candidate Eric Kramer Supervising installation of the "Arch"

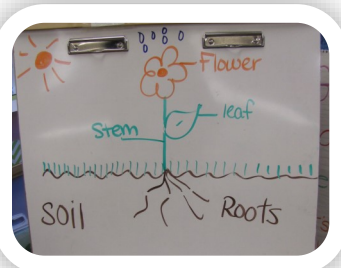


Thunder Wall constructed of Cedar & Stainless Steel.



The "Arch" where there are wind chimes & a rain stick for auditory stimulus

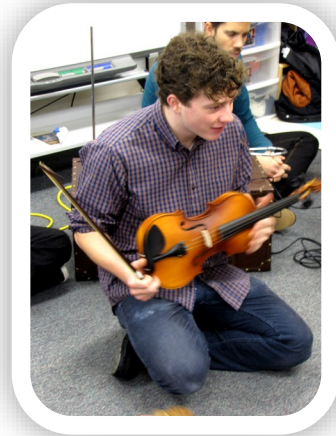
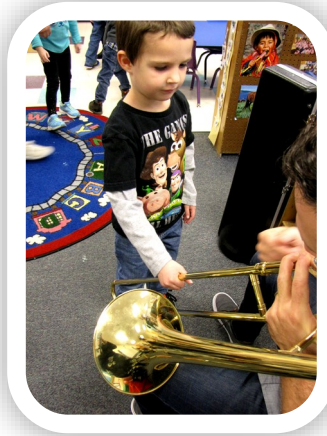
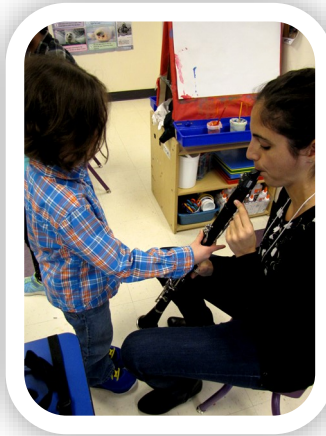
ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN SOUTHAMPTON  
WOYC GROWING & EATING THE ALPHABET



Did you know that brightly colored vegetables and fruits can be the "superstars" in every meal and snack! Our teachers do! While most toddlers consume enough fruits and vegetables, most children four years and older do not. Teachers at Alternatives For Children Southampton took advantage of all the children were learning about fruits and vegetables to sneak in some health and nutrition on the side. Teaching healthy eating habits children will use for life is hard! Convincing picky eaters that fruits and vegetables are good for you is tough. But, as part of our WOYC celebration, fruits and vegetables were the central characters in a fun filled week of exploring and learning.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN EAST SETAUKET  
SUNY STONY BROOK MUSIC DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUMENT ZOO

A "petting zoo" of a different kind was a treat for some of our classes in East Setauket when members of the SUNY Stony Brook Music Department came for a visit. The students, both old and young, "played" through a series of rhythm games using - hands for clapping, fingers for snapping, feet for stomping and rhythm sticks for making LOUD and soft sounds. The children were introduced to members of the string, woodwind, brass and percussion families of the orchestra. Then came time for the real hands-on experience - using fingers to cover the holes on the clarinet - slide the slide on the trombone - bow on and pluck the strings of the bass and violin. Although, the children all agreed their FAVORITE was the theremin. Don't know what it is? Look it up!



How exciting to get to SEE - HEAR - TOUCH some of the instruments that make up an orchestra!  
Bass - Violin - Clarinet - Trombone - Rain Stick - Bells - Theremin

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN EAST SETAUKET  
SWEET BRIAR NATURE CENTER DINOSAUR PROGRAM

Many thanks to Miss Nancy of the Sweet Briar Nature Center for visiting us and teaching us all about dinosaurs and reptiles! We learned about the extinction of dinosaurs and the fossils that were left behind. We became science detectives through hands-on observation of the tools paleontologists use to dig for fossils and getting to touch and feel real fossils. Then, we got to meet some real live descendants of the dinosaurs!



Dinosaurs! Ancestors of the Reptiles!  
From Trilobites to Madagascar Hissing  
Cockroaches! Bearded Dragons to Box  
Turtles. They are all reptiles. They all lay  
eggs! They were all alive in the time of  
the dinosaurs!

WOW! We are Learning SO MUCH!



ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN  
THANKS eVERO CORPORATION

Thank You to eVero Corporation for "adopting" two of our families and making it a brighter holiday for some very special children! eVero Corporation has had a tremendous impact on many families at Alternatives For Children. For the past several years they have partnered with Alternatives For Children as a major sponsor of our Holiday Wish Program - providing joy and happiness in the form of holiday gifts, toys, clothing, and other necessities for hundreds of our families. Alone we could not provide for all, but with eVero's help, families in need were assisted this past Holiday season!



Staff from all our locations also chipped in, providing gifts, support and Holiday Cheer!



ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN  
DENTAL HEALTH MONTH



Our Thanks to . . .  
Adelberg & Montalvan  
Pediatric Dental  
Hampton Pediatric  
Dental Associates



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development info & lots of developmental activities  
Tell your friends!

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Alternatives For Children  
21st Annual Classic & Sports Car Rally

Save The Date  
Saturday September 16, 2017



Alternatives  
For Children

14 Research Way  
East Setauket, NY 11733  
Phone 631-331-6400  
www.alternativesforchildren.org  
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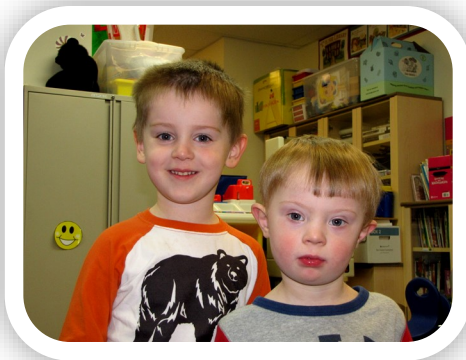
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**SAVE THE DATE**  
**12th Annual Golf Outing**

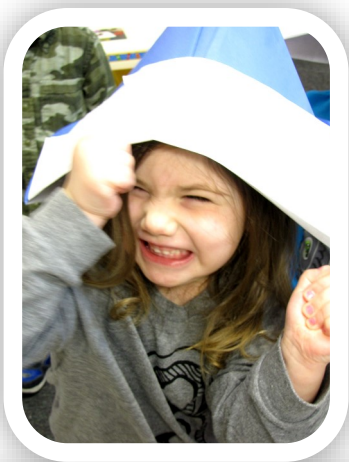


**Thursday, June 1, 2017**  
**Huntington Crescent Club**

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN  
WHAT PARENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT US



This has been an amazing year!  
We can't thank his teacher enough  
and his IEP Coordinator for always  
placing him in his best interest.



I appreciate the  
constant communication.  
Thank you  
for supporting my son!  
You rock!



We have loved all of the support &  
care while attending Alternatives.  
We could not be happier.

 Like us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/AlternativesForChildren/](http://www.facebook.com/AlternativesForChildren/)