

Alternatives For Children



www.alternativesforchildren.org

FALL 2014

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Families and Friends,

As we approach the Holiday Season, we take time to pause and be thankful! Here at Alternatives For Children we have so much to be thankful for:

- ◇ Our Board of Trustees that volunteer their time and expertise, without compensation or recognition to provide leadership and governance for our outstanding organization.
- ◇ Our Staff who work tirelessly with our children to provide expert, caring intervention to assist each child in achieving their full potential.
- ◇ Our Support Staff who work behind the scenes, yet are equally vital to the success of our organization.
- ◇ Our Families who entrust their beautiful children to Alternatives For Children.
- ◇ Our Sponsors and Donors for their kind generosity and support which helps to ensure our fiscal viability.
- ◇ Our Children, most importantly, who play and “work” so hard and whose progress makes it all worthwhile.

It is always so difficult for me to ask for your financial support. Instead, I will briefly and simply explain the financial difficulties we are presently encountering. The NYS budget that authorizes reimbursement for the programs and services that Alternatives For Children provides *has not seen an increase in six long years.*

No increase in tuition reimbursement rates = Tightening even further our purse strings

Tightening even further our purse strings = No cost of living salary increases for staff

No cost of living salary increases for staff = Difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified staff

Alternatives For Children relies so heavily on your continued generosity in support of our mission. Your financial contributions enable us to provide the high quality programming and services that have become our hallmark. I ask you once again to be as generous as your means allow when considering a donation to our 2014 Annual Year End Campaign. Never lose sight of all we have to be thankful for and take time to give thanks for family and friends.

From all of us at Alternatives For Children, to all of you, we wish you and your family the warmest of greetings in this Holiday Season!

Dani E. Francis, Ed.D.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN
2014 ANNUAL YEAR END CAMPAIGN

The Children Thank You!

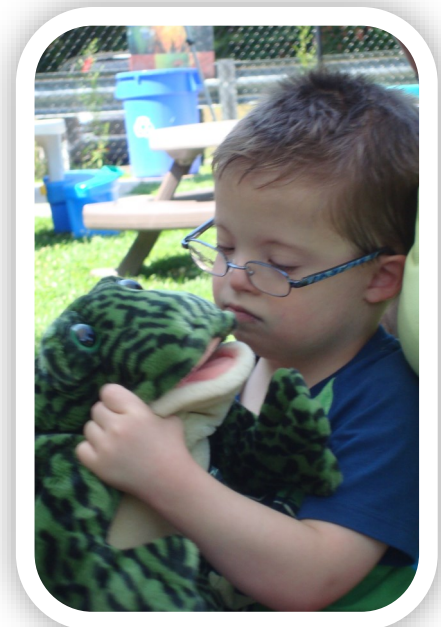
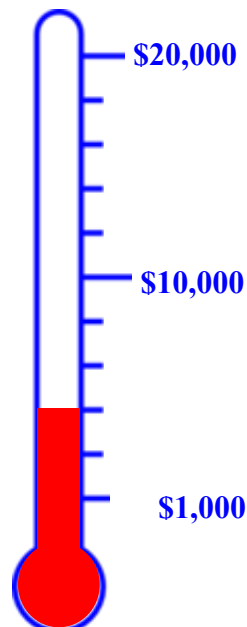
Give a Gift that
Makes a Difference

Please help us reach our goal for our
2014 Annual
Year End Campaign

Please mail in your Donation Today!
or donate on our website

<http://www.alternatives4children.org/annual-campaign.html>

Thanks to the first 2 Donors
for our Annual Campaign
Vincent O'Leary, Alternatives For Children Trustee
The Garrick C. Stephenson Family Fund



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
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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
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Child Day Care
Early Intervention Services

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Marie E. Ficano, Ed.D.

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Frederic Mendelsohn, MD
Michael Russell
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ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN'S BETH SCHWARTZ RECOGNIZED WITH PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AWARD



Elizabeth K. Schwartz, LCAT, MT-BC has been practicing music therapy in New York for over 25 years and is internationally recognized as an expert in early childhood music therapy. But at Alternatives For Children the children know her as Miss Beth, the woman who sings and creates music with them. Beth was recently recognized at the American Music Therapy Association's annual convention with this year's *Professional Practice Award*.

Beth is the senior music therapist at Alternatives for Children where she specializes in preschool treatment. Through Alternatives, Beth also provides staff development for local public schools on music therapy, music and special education and music education. She is an adjunct instructor in the graduate program in Music Therapy at Molloy College and a site supervisor for internship and fieldwork students.

Beth is the author of *Music, Therapy, and Early Childhood: A Developmental Approach*. She is a frequent contributor to the American Music Therapy Association early childhood magazine *Imagine*. Her newest book, *You and Me Makes We: A Growing Together Songbook*, has 101 newly composed or adapted songs based in therapeutic and developmental music making in early childhood.

Beth has recently been appointed to the Educational and Training Advisory Board of the AMTA and is currently an extended member of the New York State Mental Health Practitioners Board which oversees licensure of Creative Arts Therapists. She is also the music therapy liaison from MAR/AMTA to the New York State Music Educators Association.

Beth also performs and records original music therapy songs with her Alternatives colleagues, Miss Lee and Miss Suzanne as CLIMB- Children Learn in Music Best.



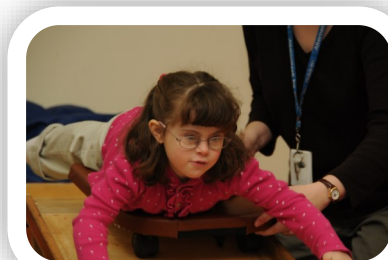
Congratulations Miss Beth!



ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN MOVING & SHAKING! OUR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS MAKE IT HAPPEN!



October was . . .
National Physical Therapy Month
We thank all our Physical Therapists
for their dedication and hard work
with all our children
Steps Taken
Muscles Strengthened
Skills Reinforced
Families Supported
Goals ACHIEVED!



ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN DIX HILLS
ALL SPRUCED UP & READY TO GO!



What's the old saying? "When one door closes, another opens." So said the great inventor Alexander Graham Bell, and the staff at our old Melville location took the saying seriously. They closed the doors on our six-week summer session on Friday, August 15th, and through the hard work, perseverance, and dedication of countless people, opened the doors to welcome new and returning families 11 days later to our new Dix Hills location!

Just goes to show
what can be accomplished
when people have a common goal
and determination!

Licensed Child Day Care Center
Infant Care-Ages 6 weeks to 5 years

Follows the National Association for the Education of Young Children
guidelines for Developmentally Appropriate Practice

Utilizes the Creative Curriculum for Early Childhood

Full Time Nurse

Computer/Ed Tech/Smart Boards

Music Class

Secure Day Care/School Environment

Developmentally Age Appropriate Safe Playground Spaces

NYS Early Intervention Evaluations

NYS Early Intervention Services

Preschool Special Ed Evaluations

Preschool Special Ed Program

Integrated Nursery School Classes

Special Education Related Services

EZ on EZ off exit 50S on the LIE Bagatelle Road

6:30 am - 6:30 pm

600 South Service Road Dix Hills, NY 11746 631-271-0777

www.alternativesforchildren.org

Competitive Rates

Four Levels of Care

Infant - Waddler - Toddler - Preschool

Child Day Care Center Goals

To provide the highest quality child care for infants, toddlers and preschool children

To maintain a dynamic early childhood environment that invites children to explore and experiment

A supportive environment is planned to provide sufficient structure to foster feelings of security and confidence

Staff engage children by being active listeners and facilitate problem solving through limit setting and negotiation

An emphasis is placed on problem solving, independence, creativity, and cooperation

Promotes a child's development of their imagination and language

Provide opportunities for children to learn through structured and unstructured group play, and improve the necessary socialization skills they will need as they grow and go on to kindergarten



Many thanks to Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci for his visit in September to our new Dix Hills location. He had fun playing with waffle blocks with some of the children. Dr. Ficano, Executive Director and other staff members also had some time to speak with the Assemblyman about the need for equitable funding for 4410 Preschool Special Education.

Thank you Assemblyman Lupinacci for your time and support!

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN EAST SETAUKET

PROVIDING FULL DAY UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN FOR MIDDLE COUNTRY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

If you follow news about education in New York State, you will have heard about Governor Cuomo's push early this Spring for the implementation of full-day Universal Pre Kindergarten statewide. The primary purpose and thinking behind this initiative is to provide four-year-old students with an opportunity to access high-quality prekindergarten programs that will provide the foundation to help prepare them for future school success. It was announced in late spring that grant opportunities would be made available to all New York City schools and schools throughout the state to apply for funds to implement full-day UPK. Several Long Island school districts that neighbor Alternatives For Children's four locations applied for these monies.

In late August, school districts who would be receiving funding under this initiative were notified and began the process of hiring staff and readying rooms to provide full-day UPK within their district, or contracting with approved community based organizations to provide UPK programming.

The Middle Country School District wrote a dynamic Grant justifying why their half day program should be converted into a full-day program for all its children. As a long standing UPK provider, since 2008 for the Middle Country School District, Alternatives For Children was asked to partner with Middle Country and was awarded 16 full-day UPK students. This class began in September under the fine leadership of Dorothy Creegan, our East Setauket Early Childhood Coordinator.

Alternatives For Children's UPK program promotes a child's development of their imagination and language, and is designed to build independence, self-esteem, cooperation skills, and mutual respect. Certified early childhood teachers provide opportunities for the children to learn through structured and unstructured group play, and develop the necessary socialization skills they will need as they grow. As the children learn about seasonal changes, cultures/traditions, making healthy eating choices, and safety rules it is always with an eye on offering a comprehensive, educationally sound curriculum, emphasizing early pre-reading skills, pre-writing skills, early computational skills, and phonological awareness skills. The Creative Curriculum utilized by Alternatives For Children aligns with the NYS Common Core standards ensuring that children are ready to learn when they transition to kindergarten.



Alternatives For Children also collaborates with the Southold and Riverhead School Districts
Providing UPK programming on the North Fork of the East End

Play

Learn

Grow



WE LEARN ABOUT
FIRE SAFETY!

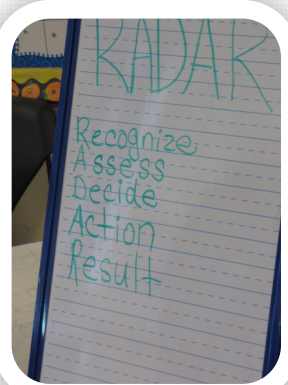
STOP
DROP
&
ROLL

THANK YOU
FIREFIGHTERS!

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN FALL HAPPENINGS

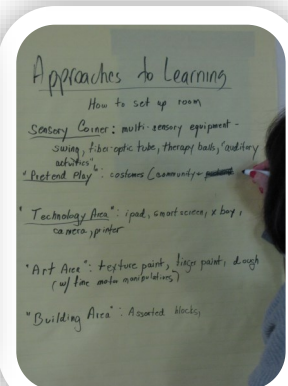


ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN STAFF TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Ongoing Staff Training and Professional Development is provided at Alternatives For Children throughout the year to assure that all staff is current on the latest in best practices in early childhood education.

At our Fall Conference Day in November, staff received training on a Behavior Management System, Handle With Care, supplementing our Positive Behavior management Support model.



In addition, staff received additional training on aligning the Creative Curriculum with the New York State P-12 Common Core Learning Standards. The Creative Curriculum is an early childhood curriculum designed to foster children's social/emotional, physical, cognitive and language development, as well as enhance learning in literacy, math, social studies, the arts and technology.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN
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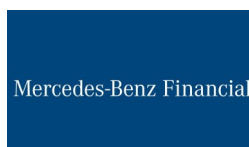
JIM BUZZETTA – ROAD RALLY CHAIR

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 Peter Bussacca
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 Dr. Marie Ficano

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 Artie Picchione
 George Tasso
 Ingrid Trouvé



Thank You
 Basket Raffle Donors
 Swag Bag Donors



With Great Appreciation to United Metro Energy
for their Generous Donation

It's difficult in this day and age to pick and choose where you want to *Make a Difference*. Our email inbox, Facebook, Snapchats, and Twitter feeds are filled daily with multiple pleas from numerous "friends" and their "networks" to "join my Cause" or raise money for a "Kickstarter" or do an "Ice Bucket Challenge" or whatever is the latest viral internet sensation. All worthy charitable activities.

That's why it is so very interesting when out of the blue you are contacted by someone you don't know who wants to give you money in support of your mission and goals.

That's exactly what happened when we were contacted by Mr. William Russo, an Account Executive on behalf of Mr. Dan Gianfalla, United Metro Energy President and COO. And just like that a connection was made and a relationship begun.

We thank Mr. Gianfalla and United Metro Energy for their generous donation and look forward to a lasting relationship.



500 Kingsland Ave | Brooklyn, NY 11222 | 718-383-1400
801 Scott Avenue | Calverton, NY 11933 | 631-208-9000

To the fantastic staff at Alternatives For Children,
You have been a part of my life for over 30 years; how do I find the words to THANK YOU for each and every child who entered my life and yours? From the first time Three Village had Billy evaluated to Diamond's graduation, I have trusted you with the special kids in my life from foster children, to the last 6 who ended up being adopted. You have always been caring, supportive and full of advice. The things you gave them were impossible for one person to teach or improve. You welcomed all with open arms and patted me on the back and said, "We can do this!" Together we have. You gave me advice, strategies, hope, encouragement, and most of all loving concern. I even got a few kicks in the rear to get me going on the right path. These children all needed structure, guidelines, and hugs that you all so freely gave. I will miss coming to the school every day, but hope to stop in and say Hi.

**THE CHILDREN AND I ALL SAY THANK YOU ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN,
YOU HELPED US GROW!**

Love - Peggy Tomasicchio and Family

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN AFFINITY MEMBERS

COMpetition IS GOOD
competitionautogroup.com

Jim Buzzetta

Merik C. Dolber

Dr. & Mrs. Fred Mendelsohn

Mark Senders

Dan Meystrik

Mike Russell

Katherine Crowe

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Alternatives For Children is a not-for-profit, 501 (c)(3) organization registered with the NYS Charities Bureau. All donations are tax-deductible in accordance with current IRS charitable giving guidelines



Alternatives
For Children

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www.alternativesforchildren.org

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SAVE THE DATE
Tenth Annual Golf Outing



Monday, June 15, 2015
Huntington Crescent Club

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

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN EAST SETAUKET
COOKING FUN IN THE CLASSROOM



The sweet aroma of baking apples was wafting through the halls of Alternatives For Children when Michael Forman, Pastry Chef at Buoy One of Westhampton, shared his super secret recipe for apple pizza with the children.

