

# Alternatives For Children



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

SUMMER 2016

## ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN LEARNING & GROWING . . . CHILDREN & GARDENS



Like the fallow and unplanted soil in our gardens, children and their families come to Alternatives For Children in need of the experienced knowledge and guidance of our staff that will allow each child to grow and flourish. We prepare children to become independent, self-confident, and curious learners. Our teachers and therapists provide a natural learning environment, implanting opportunities to enhance and enrich each child's educational experience. We are always mindful of the unique qualities of each child and attend to their individual goals. Our team of experienced and dedicated early childhood professionals provide invaluable educational and therapeutic programs that prepare our graduates to be ready to learn and ready for Kindergarten.



Till the Soil  
Plant the Seeds  
Water with Care  
Tend the Garden  
Reap the Crop

## ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN AQUEBOGUE NEW CLASSROOM APPROVALS FROM THE NYS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

We are pleased to announce that Alternatives For Children Aquebogue has received two new classroom approvals from the NYS Department of Education. Our class offerings at Alternatives For Children Aquebogue had been limited for our children and families to a half-day, integrated option.

Based on the needs of children and families on the North Fork and the lack of class placement options for them, applications for modification to our classes were submitted to the NYS Department of Education. Alternatives for Children Aquebogue, is now also approved for a 6:1:1 self-contained class, as well as a 12:1:2 full day integrated option. It will provide us with another growth opportunity, while meeting the needs of children with special needs and their families on the East End. Our Universal Prekindergarten Program with Riverhead School District will be renewed again as well.

A special thank you to Donna Menna, our Curriculum/East End Coordinator, for the leadership provided through this process, and to Erica Mailand, Aquebogue teacher, for your ongoing efforts. Thanks also to all our East End staff for the exceptional services you provide for our families.

When I  
grow up  
I want to  
be...

a self - confident  
inquisitive  
problem-solver



an imaginative curious learner  
and an independent hard worker

# 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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Michael Russell

## ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On a beautiful day in June we hosted our 11th Annual Golf Outing at the Huntington Crescent Club. I would like to thank our Golf Outing Chairs Dr. Fred and Mrs. Sunny Mendelsohn and the Golf Outing Committee for helping to make this year's Outing such a huge success. With tremendous gratitude, I thank all our sponsors, donors to our Silent Auction and Basket Raffle, our golfers and tennis players, and the staff at the Crescent Club who help us make the day so special. Please make plans now to join us next year for this fun event.

We have begun our six-week summer session after graduating 100 children in June. Our preschool program is designed so that children will meet their IEP goals and/or meet developmental criteria, be ready to learn and be successful as they transition to the kindergarten environment. We are so proud of each one of them.

Please make plans to join us for our 20th Annual Classic & Sports Car Rally on October 15th. Find sponsorship and registration information in this newsletter.

As always, thank you for your generous support of our mission. Please give us a call if you would like to come visit!

*Marie E. Ficano, Ed.D.*

**Golf Outing Committee Co-Chairs**  
Dr. Frederic and Mrs. Sunny Mendelsohn

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MANY THANKS TO OUR  
11TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING SPONSORS

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W.B. Mason Company  
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Special Thanks to . . .

Dr. Fred & Mrs. Sunny Mendelsohn Dr. Gwen Gnadt  
Mrs. Vivian Mirza Mr. Sean Russell  
Alternatives For Children Parents & Staff

**Thank you Donors, Golfers, Tennis Players . .**

Michael & Barbara Russell  
Vivian & Ather Mirza  
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Find all the pictures from our  
Golf & Tennis Outing on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/AlternativesForChildren](http://www.facebook.com/AlternativesForChildren)

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN  
ART WITH A PURPOSE – PARKER IS USING HIS WHOLE BODY TO CREATE!



Practicing and utilizing Gross Motor Skills as he ascends and descends the step. Lots of thought and motor planning here!

Practicing and utilizing Fine Motor Skills as he dips and controls the paint brush. Working on grasping and developing muscle memory!

All the while as Parker was painting, he was talking to the observer; there was an on-going narration. The colors and placement of them was explained - every stroke was conveyed into speech.

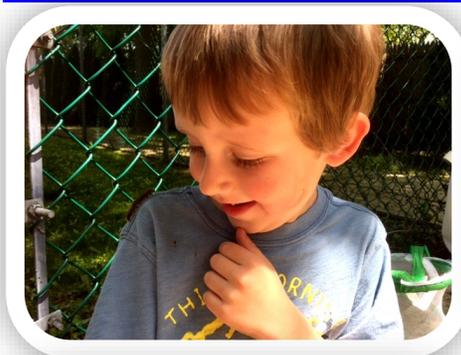
**Pragmatic language development and social interaction**

*“The blue at the bottom is the pool. I like swimming. It is an elephant. See his trunk? These are his eyeballs. They are yellow. His eyebrows will be orange. He has long feet. 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 feet. This is his tail. That’s not an ear, that’s the sky. An ear here. More blue for the sky.”*

So much learning going on, including carry-over and reinforcement of therapeutic skills learned. All the child knows is that he has been given the encouragement and freedom to use what he has taken in through the classroom and therapeutic sessions and use his whole body to create art with a purpose . . . a true masterpiece!



ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN AQUEBOGUE  
NATURE OBSERVERS – OUTDOOR LEARNERS



*Caterpillars, butterflies, box turtles, dandelions, fresh air!* When the playground is your classroom and nature is your teacher there is so much to see and do! The children at Alternatives For Children Aqueboque have had some hands-on science, language/literacy and tactile sensory experiences lately.



Who wouldn't love to learn about turtles by actually finding one on the playground, learning about what they eat, where their natural habitat is, and observing how they move and protect themselves? And the Caterpillars! How do they move? What do they eat? Does it tickle when they crawl on you? What happens to a caterpillar when it grows up?

Endless Lessons  
Priceless Experiences

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN DIX HILLS  
GOING BACK IN TIME – DISCOVERING DINOSAUR EGGS

The children loved our dinosaur unit and making dinosaur eggs. The children measured and mixed the secret ingredients for the eggs. Then came the gooey part - placing some of the dough in their hands and forming it into an egg. We painted the eggs then needed to wait a few days for the eggs to dry. During our “egg waiting time” we read dinosaur books, sang dinosaur songs, pretended to move like dinosaurs, made scary sounds like dinosaurs, and painted dinosaur pictures. We were dino crazy! After a few days we studied the eggs with magnifying glasses and investigated different ways to open the eggs. Crack them - or watch them magically dissolve in a potion? We did it both ways! The children were so surprised to find that we had snuck dinosaurs inside the eggs!

Learning as we Explore!  
So Much Learning . . . So Much Fun



ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN EAST SETAUKET  
HATCHING EGGS & RAISING CHICKS

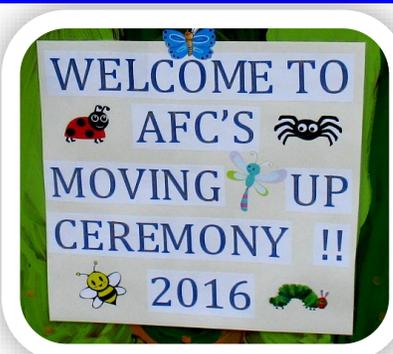


In preparation for the big event, the children helped set up the incubator. The incubator temperature has to be kept at 99.5 degrees. The humidity has to stay at 50%. In late spring, the eggs arrived. The children were surprised that the eggs were not white but a variety of colors. The children counted and then placed the eggs onto the egg turner in the warmed incubator. We made a hatching calendar to track the 21 day incubation process. Our days of waiting for our eggs to hatch were filled with a variety of egg activities. Then it happened - one after another the chicks started making their way out of the shells. The children loved having the chicks in the classroom. We fed, cleaned, held, petted, compared, drew, and wrote about them.

Learning as we Explore!  
So Much Learning . . . So Much Fun



ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN SOUTHAMPTON  
MOVING UP CEREMONY – SPREAD YOUR WINGS AND FLY!



ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN 20TH ANNUAL CLASSIC & SPORTS CAR RALLY  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2016

**Sponsorship Opportunities**

**\$5,000 Monaco Sponsor - Event Sponsor**

(\$4,600 tax deductible)  
Prominent recognition of company as sponsor at lunch reception  
Company name and logo on souvenir T-shirts  
Premier listing in event program  
Display Car and/or promotional materials at Finish Line  
Eight tickets to the Day's Events including driving in the Rally

**\$2,500 Indianapolis Sponsor - Reception Sponsor**

(\$2,300 tax deductible)  
Prominent recognition of company as sponsor at lunch reception  
Company name and logo on souvenir T-shirts  
Acknowledgement in event program  
Display Car and/or promotional materials at Finish Line  
Four tickets to the Day's Events including driving in the Rally

**\$1,500 Daytona Sponsor - Raffle Sponsor**

(\$1,400 tax deductible)  
Company name on souvenir T-shirts  
Acknowledgment in event program  
Display Car and/or promotional materials at Finish Line  
Two tickets to the Day's Events including driving in the Rally

**\$1,000 Lime Rock Sponsor - Dealer Showcase**

(\$900 tax deductible)  
Company name on souvenir T-shirts  
Acknowledgment in event program  
Display Car and/or promotional materials at Finish Line  
Two tickets to the lunch reception

**\$500 Watkins Glen Sponsor - Awards Sponsor**

(\$400 tax deductible)  
Company banner or acknowledgment at awards table  
Acknowledgment in event program  
Two tickets to the lunch reception

**\$300 Bridgehampton Sponsor - Breakfast/Checkpoint Sponsor**

(\$250 tax deductible)  
Signage at either starting line breakfast or checkpoint  
Acknowledgment in event program  
One ticket to the lunch reception

**\$100 Starting Line Sign**

(\$100 tax deductible)

**Starting Line**

**Alternatives For Children Southampton**  
168 Hill Street Southampton, NY 11968 631-722-2170

**Finish Line**

**Stonewalls Restaurant at Woods Golf Course**  
967 Reeves Avenue Riverhead, NY 11901 631-506-0777

**Registration & Breakfast 9:15 am**  
**Start: 10:00 am SHARP!**

**Return Registration/Sponsorship/Raffle Ticket Request to**  
**Alternatives for Children**  
**14 Research Way East Setauket, NY 11733**

**register online until September 30th at**  
**[www.alternativesforchildren.org/road-rally](http://www.alternativesforchildren.org/road-rally)**

**Sponsorship Level**

\_\_\_\_\_ Monaco Sponsor - \$5,000  
\_\_\_\_\_ Indianapolis Sponsor - \$2,500  
\_\_\_\_\_ Daytona Sponsor - \$1,500  
\_\_\_\_\_ Lime Rock Sponsor - \$1,000  
\_\_\_\_\_ Watkins Glen Sponsor - \$500  
\_\_\_\_\_ Bridgehampton Sponsor - \$300  
\_\_\_\_\_ Starting Line Sponsor - \$100

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

**Enter a Car**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$125 Car Club Registration by September 30th  
(full price after 9/30)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$150 by September 15th  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$165 after September 15th  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$185 day of event

Car Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_

Member of Car Club? If yes, which one \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL CAR REGISTRATION \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKET**

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$100 each

**TOTAL RAFFLE TICKET PURCHASE \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**AWARDS LUNCHEON TICKET**

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to attend the reception ONLY  
at \$55 per person

**TOTAL AWARDS LUNCH RECEPTION \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATION**

\_\_\_\_\_ I can't attend, but would like to support Alternatives  
For Children with a tax deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Method of Payment**

\_\_\_\_\_ Check Enclosed  
\_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card type \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

exp date \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holders Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Alternatives For Children  
invites you to join with us in honoring  
our Classic & Sports Car Rally Team*



**Jim Buzzetta**  
Classic & Sports Car Rally Chair  
Competition Automotive Group  
Event Sponsor  
Alternatives For Children Trustee

Jim joined the Board of Trustees in 2005 where he quickly became a strong advocate for, and an ardent supporter of the administration, staff, and the vision and mission of Alternatives For Children. Serving as the event chairperson, Jim has literally been the driving force behind our annual Classic and Sports Car Rally. Through his sponsorship of this fundraising event, Jim has been personally involved in raising much needed funds to assure that Alternatives For Children can continue to offer the highest quality educational and therapeutic services to the children and families we serve.



**Dr. Mark DiBenedetto**  
Classic & Sports Car Rally Master  
Village Internal Medicine  
Physician/Owner

Mark is an avid fisherman, competitive cyclist and a self-proclaimed classic car enthusiast. He has been one of the creative minds that has fashioned the devious rally routes that have confused and confounded many a driver and navigator team.



**Jim Lynch**  
Classic & Sports Car Rally Master  
Fine Art Photographer  
WUSB Radio Talk Show Host

Among his many passions and talents, Jim admits to being a “car nut.” Jim loves to craft and create rally routes that are scenic, and literally and figuratively twisted.



It is because of the dedication  
of our two Rally Masters  
Mark DiBenedetto and Jim Lynch  
and the support of  
Competition Automotive Group  
and the Buzzetta Family  
that this much loved event  
has been such a success through the years,  
generating a fun and exciting day

# ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN AFFINITY MEMBERS

**Jim Buzzetta**

**John Knab**

**Dr. & Mrs. Fred Mendelsohn**

**Mark Senders**

**Victor Nelson**

**Mike Russell**

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN  
YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDES  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & STAFF TRAINING**

Always mindful of the changing landscape of special education, the administration at Alternatives For Children is constantly reflecting on and developing plans that take into consideration the impact these changes may have on current and future best practices.

Alternatives For Children hosts a minimum of two staff conference days per year where a variety of topics are presented. We are fortunate to employ many individuals with experience and expertise within their discipline, who throughout the course of the year present in-service training for the teaching and therapeutic staff. In addition, cross-discipline training is held monthly, while specific discipline specific training is ongoing.

This summer, all staff underwent an extensive six week - twelve hour training to review existing, as well as new policies and procedures. In addition, in order to be ready for the beginning of the school year in September, training on implementation of the Sixth Edition of the Creative Curriculum was presented.

**Your generous Support Makes this Possible!  
Professional Development and Training  
in the Most Current Philosophies and Trends  
in Early Childhood Education**



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Alternatives For Children  
20th Annual  
Classic & Sports Car Rally



Save the Date  
Saturday October 15th

## ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN WHAT OUR PARENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT US

We are absolutely thrilled again this year with my son's team. His teacher is a dream teacher. His Speech teacher has been a huge factor in his speech development. His IEP Coordinator is very aware of and accommodating of his individual needs. His integrated teacher and teacher assistant are super and caring. The women from daycare are also excellent. Thank you!



I truly feel my daughter and my family are in the best hands and care. I have reached out to teachers and staff members with questions and concerns, and have gotten speedy and insightful feedback. I feel my child's growth and well-being are a top priority

Our son has been at Alternatives For Children in Dix Hills for only three weeks and we are already seeing positive results of his therapy and just the day to day school activities. Being able to place our son at Alternatives has been the best decision we've made.

We thank our families for sharing their children with us and placing their trust in us!