

# Springfield Area Parent Child Center

## Early Childhood News

Winter 2013

### Strong Communities, One Family at a Time

### Completion of Phase I of the PlayWorks Child Center Natural Playground

Thanks to the hard work of SAPCC Planning Staff and Committee members as well as to generous donations of time and materials from a number of our community members!



Work continues in 2013 on Phase II to include an herb garden, sunflower hut and more.

### SAPCC Celebrates 20 Years of Service

On a crisp early fall day, Springfield Area Parent Child celebrated a 20th Birthday with a Family Picnic on the grounds of the newly constructed Natural playground. There was live music, face painting, a Scholastic book sale, and of course—Cake!



Jan/Feb/Mar

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Serving families and children in the communities of Andover, Ascutney, Baltimore, Bellows Falls, Brownsville, Cavendish, Chester, Grafton, Londonderry, Ludlow, Perkinsville, Plymouth, Proctorsville, Reading, Rockingham, Saxtons River, Springfield, Weathersfield, Weston, West Windsor, Windham, and Windsor since 1992.



Incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit agency in 1992, SAPCC is governed by a Board of Directors composed of voluntary members plus an Executive Director.

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## Strong Communities, One Family at a Time

*My Name is Cassandra*  
**My Name is Cassandra**

I have two wonderful children, a boy and a girl ages 5 and 2. They are my world. I came to the Parent Child Center in January of 2012.

When I began, I was a little bit nervous. It was about 5 years since I even went to school. The Parent Child Center turned out to be more than I thought it would be. The staff was such a help to me with everything. They helped guide me in the direction I needed for housing assistance and many other things that I don't think I could do without having the resources I got from them.

Both my daughter and son attended the Child Care Center. PlayWorks is such an amazing place for children to come and learn while playing. The Parent Child Center and the programs they offer have helped me to provide a better future for me and my children.

*My Name is Darian*  
**My Name is Darian**

I've been a student here at the Parent Child Center since April 2011 and am here for my High School diploma. I am very grateful to have come across a program like this. It has helped out with my child care so I can continue my schooling, and become on step closer to being successful.

I have taken many different worksites that have helped me learn things I need to know in getting a job and will help me in our community. I have a two year old who is in child care at PlayWorks and the staff has helped her with her milestones and my child has come a long way since I started the program.

I will be graduating in June, all thanks to the Parent Child Center!

*Perfect Opportunity*  
**Perfect Opportunity**

I want to take the chance to explain to the reader of this newsletter why Springfield Area Parent Child Center was the "perfect" opportunity for me.

Six years ago, my son, who was two at the time, was in the infant/toddler room and I was given the opportunity to enjoy my time with the preschoolers. It was here that Elijah started to get speech therapy to help him with his speech. He had tubes in his ears that made it hard for him to be up to par. This is just one of the many services that has been provided for me and my family by SAPCC.

Fast forward to the present (2012). I have been taking advantage the parenting classes SAPCC offers to anyone who is interested.

Whether it's a way to stay in contact with your kids, get your kids back or to just get new information to be a better parent, the classes offered are very informational and help you with unanswered questions, at least for me. What comforts me the most is no matter your situation, you will not be judged entering into these classes.

I encourage other parents to take advantage of these opportunities as I did to use any of the services/classes that SAPCC provides. In my opinion, it will be well worth it and you will walk away with something that could be of use with your family.

*Jessica Crockwell*



## HCRS Recognizes Betty Kinsman of Springfield Area Parent Child Center



Betty Kinsman, Executive Director  
SAPCC

Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) recently recognized Betty Kinsman, Executive Director of the Springfield Area Parent Child Center (SAPCC), for her role in improving the quality of life for families in Southeastern Vermont.

As part of HCRS annual meeting held on November 1<sup>st</sup>, Judith Hayward, CEO presented Betty Kinsman with a Community Partnership Award for her collaborative relationship with HCRS. The two organizations have been working together for many years to integrate mental health and early childhood services.

Over the last five years, HCRS has been active in the Children's Integrated Services initiative which was designed to build partnerships with early childhood providers. According to HCRS Betty has been a leader in the community with a vision of helping young families get support and assistance for their infants and young children. She recognizes the need for good working relationships to accomplish this and she works hard to address the many issues that come up in these collaborations. She believes in and models open dialogue and honest discussion as the basis for a trusting relationship and healthy collaboration.

HCRS extends its appreciation to Betty Kinsman for her commitment to improving the quality of life for families in our communities.



*"Parent Child Center and Playworks.....  
.....Tienna speaking."*

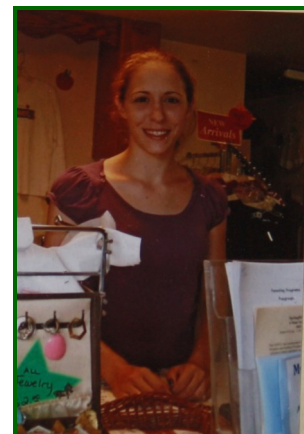
That's the friendly voice of Tienna Howe who has been the receptionist at SAPCC for 14 years. While her job description has changed over the years, Tienna continues to be a "greeter" and often the first person you would talk to if you call the Center looking for help.

Along with her duties of managing the reception area, Tienna is also a work site supervisor for the Learning Together Program. She mentors the participants to explore a career in the clerical field, an area that has expanded beyond that of a traditional secretary. As many as three participants learn how to answer the phone and direct calls, greet the public, doing data entry on the computer, and providing clerical support to all the staff along with other duties to help SAPCC run smoothly. The reception area can be a very busy place!

Tienna puts her interest in clothes and fashion to good use at Myrtle's Closet—A Thrift Store. She is one of the staff who regularly covers some of the hours at Myrtles and also serves as a mentor to the LT participants at this work-site.

Ronni, one of the LT participants, who recently finished a rotation with Tienna in reception, describes her as "hard working" and someone "who really knows what she is doing."

"Tienna can handle a lot" according to Ronnie and she is very willing to help the participants she mentors "understand and get comfortable" with working in reception. "You can ask her questions and she will help you learn" continues Ronnie. "I really enjoyed working with her."





ATLANTA, GA November 7-10, 2012

## ***An Experience to Remember***

*Submitted by Rose Worden, Co-Director  
PlayWorks Child Center*

**The National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference** was held in Atlanta, Georgia on November 6-12, 2012.

I had the wonderful opportunity to attend this conference with thousands of other early childhood educators.

Listening to all the experiences of others was so beneficial. We were able to exchange great ideas and really focus on specific topics.

A wide range of child development topics were covered, but one the most fascinating was called ***"Supporting Relationships between infants: A case study of two Babies"***.

The case study was with two infants, a boy and a girl, who were three months old at the start. For this experiment they positioned the babies on their backs side by side close enough to touch, sharing a mobile overhead. Other positions include facing each other on their tummies with materials to share such as soft blocks, laying them side by side on their tummies facing a mirror and placing them in seats face to face where they were able to touch feel and lean towards each other for further contact.

The teachers used materials to promote sharing and were surprised at how the babies responded. They observed the babies intentionally comforting each other, sharing, showing empathy and initiating interactions with other babies. The teachers also noted clear peer preferences and how the demonstrated separation anxiety when "their" baby was not there. The teachers firmly believed that those babies were forming friendships at a very young age.

I was fascinated by this study and the pictures presented truly spoke volumes. All in all, it was a very worthwhile experience that I recommend to any childcare professional.



My Name is Donna  
My Name is Donna

I am pleased to introduce myself as a new PlayWorks Infant/Toddler Teacher in the Meadow Green room as of August 2012. I have enjoyed meeting the children, families and staff of PlayWorks and The Springfield Area Parent Child Center. Everyone has made me feel so welcome! The children make me smile every day and I know how fortunate I am to be part of something so special in our community.



Teaching at PlayWorks Child Care Center is a wonderful opportunity and I am very excited about our upcoming year. I am looking forward to sharing in the children's exploration, discovery and love of learning. Patti Kemp is a fantastic co-teacher to work with. Together we plan activities that develop the children's creative skills and meet the individual needs and interests of each child. Our year will be educational and fun filled. Through our curriculum we will teach sign language and continue our many music, movement, literacy and art activities.

The children will "taste" the pumpkin balls we make, "touch" the cool whip as we learn about white, "hear" the music we make with our handmade instruments, "smell" the ginger we sprinkle on our paper gingerbread boy and "see" blue and yellow ice cubes melt into green water. Our "sixth" sense is our "heart" ...as we all learn to share and care for each other.

I hope my experiences will be beneficial as I impart knowledge but remain open and excited to grow and benefit from all that the children and families have to teach me. Thank you for the opportunity to see the world through the eyes of a child.



## Learning Together Science Class—with Teacher Betsy Owens

This quarter the students in the Learning Together (LT) program were offered a science class. The class was taught by Betsy Owen, who has taught for many years in the school system as an elementary and preschool teacher as well as coordinator of science programs in the Springfield School System. Betsy had assistance by SAPCC staff member, Jennifer Stagg.

Betsy brings excitement and enthusiasm to the LT classroom. Her engaging manner and insight draws you into the wonder of what is around us in the “science” world. The students are led in experiments in nature, using resources that we have available right on the SAPCC site on the Black River as well field Trips to Springweather Nature Center and the Springfield Bog. In the outdoor classroom, students have discovered tracks of animals that have visited the banks of the river and wondered why might they be there? What are they looking for? Beaver activity, unique plant life in the Bog as well as indigenous plant and trees where all observed and recorded in the students science journals and all the findings discussed in the field as well as in the classroom.



Betsy has based her science class teachings on the Vermont Institute of Natural Science text, **“Hands-On Nature Information and Activities for Exploring the Environment with Children”**. This has been a staple in many classrooms throughout the state where volunteers bring science to the elementary classroom through interactive and exciting approaches.

The Learning Together program is an intensive parent training program for pregnant and parenting teens and young parents offered by Parent Child Centers throughout the state. Participants work on high school diplomas, job training skills and more during the year round, four days a week program.

## Messy Hands on Fun in The Four Square Room

The Four Square room preschoolers have been focusing on hands on messy fun in the past month. For two weeks we were using our Mother Goose Care about Math and Science. We read the different books in the morning and did the science and math activities that related to it. One of the activities the children really enjoyed was making boats out of aluminum foil and counting how many blocks it would take to sink them! We charted the results. We also made slime and elephant toothpaste messy activities to help teach skills.



We’ve also focused on cooking projects from around the world. Each day we cooked something to reflect a different country’s culture using food. The children made German apple pancakes and scones from Scotland. The preschoolers got to make and eat their creations. They measured the ingredients which is a fun way to learn math concepts. Cooking projects that the children actually make also encourages them to try new foods to eat. It also allowed us to ask lots of open ended questions to enhance the cognitive and language skills during the process.

## Fun and Educational!



*What's in a Name?*  
Have you wondered where the name "Myrtle" came from?

Well, here's the story...

Ten years ago SAPCC started a Thrift Store at the original building located on Myrtle Street in Springfield.....hence the name of the store!

Customers often ask who Myrtle is, and when we explain it always brings a laugh and a smile.

*Ten Years and Still Going Strong!*

# My Name is Myrtle

At Myrtle's Closet, we are having a great time dressing the newest addition to our family, Myrtle the Mannequin. Come in and greet Myrtles and see her latest fashions. Our store hours are:

- ◆ Wednesday 9am—12pm
- ◆ Thursday 10am—4pm
- ◆ Friday 10am—4pm
- ◆ 1st Saturday of the Month 9am—12pm

If you have a group of friends, co-workers or family members and can't make it to Myrtle's Closet during the regular hours, contact SPACC at 886-5242 to set up a "special event/shopping night" for your group. Or leave a message at Myrtle's Closet—A Thrift Store at 886-7100, and we'll call you back.



FREE  
EVENT

## 20th Annual

FREE  
OPEN TO THE  
PUBLIC

**Celebrate Young Children**  
*Family Festival and Book Fair*

**April 20, 2013**

*Sponsored by the Springfield Area Parent Child Center*

**9:30 am—12:00 pm**

*Held at Riverside Middle School—Springfield*

*\*Scholastics Book Sale 9:30-12 noon  
Buy One, Get One Free!\**

*Face Painting, Family Crafts, Games Book Sales,  
Music, Dramatic play..and more*

*Fun for children ages 1-8 and their parents*

FREE  
EVENT

## *Kudos to Patti Kemp on her CDA Renewal!*



A Child Development Associate is an individual who has successfully completed the CDA process and has been awarded the

CDA credential. To achieve this, an individual must meet competency levels in many Child Development Functional Areas including Safety, Health, Physical Activity, Cognitive, Creative, Communication, Guidance, Program Management and Professionalism. Patti has excelled in all these areas and we are proud of her for taking the initiative to earn and keep current, these credentials that enhance her professional skills.

*Visit us at [www.sapcc-vt.org](http://www.sapcc-vt.org)*

# Congratulations!

Recently, fourteen members of our community reached a milestone event, completing 45 hours of child development class work. This 45 hour course (Level I) is based on the early childhood core competencies. It introduces professionals working with young children and their families to the first level of skills and knowledge in five areas:

- ◆ Child Development
- ◆ Teaching and Learning
- ◆ Families and Communities
- ◆ Healthy and Safe Environments
- ◆ Professionalism and Program Organization

## Congratulations to this year's class:

Sarah Allen Druen—Suzy's Little Peanuts

Amanda Ellis—Suzy's Little Peanuts

Jean Merrit—Registered Home Provider

Joey Claflin—Registered Home Provider

Nicole Haskell—Squeaky Sneakers

Jennifer Berquist—Registered Home Provider

Justine Steele—Suzy's Little Peanuts

Cayala Goodrich— Suzy's Little Peanuts

Sheena Smith—Stepping Stone Preschool

Deborah Tucker—The Little School

Rebecca Ellison—Springfield Learning Garden

Amber Blake—Kidsview Academy

## Upcoming Parenting Classes

### Positive Discipline for Preschoolers

Thursdays, January 17—February 21, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Life with an active child can be very demanding. No matter how much you love your child, there will be moments filled with frustration and anger. Learn to understand why children misbehave and how to solve behavior problems. Positive Discipline for Preschoolers provides basic principles that will bring child and adult closer together.



### Strengthening your Blended Family

Thursdays, March 18—April 15, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Living together, building a new relationship and combining separate families into one are complex jobs with many potential pitfalls. Join other to learn how to identify the pitfalls and gain skills to avoid them. You will find real solutions to real problems. Blended family homes can be wonderful places in which to live. Working and learning together, you can discover ways to make them so.

**Childcare at Parenting Classes is provided on a limited basis - Call 802-886-5242 to reserve space**

## Heartfelt Thanks

Go out to our donors from 2012. Your cash donations help us continue to meet goals

### THANK YOU!

Kevin & Jennifer Anderson

Stephen & Ellen Ankuda

Debbie Ankuda

Paul Beibel, Prudent Living

Greg Blake, CT Valley Ins.

Thomas & Mariette Bock

Bob Byington, Lucas Ind.

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Ted Chivers, All Seasons Construction

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VTEL





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One Family at a Time

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## Technically Speaking...

Funding for the SAPCC programs, including this newsletter is provided in part by Vermont's [Agency of Human Services](#), [Department of Children and Families Child Development Division](#) and private sources.

Submissions and announcements related to early childhood and intended for the general public and those who care about young children are always welcome.

**Send submissions to:**  
**Early Childhood  
News @ SAPCC**

6 Main St.  
N. Springfield, VT 05150  
[sapcc2@vermontel.net](mailto:sapcc2@vermontel.net)

We reserve the right to deny or edit any submission. All submissions must have names of the person or agency submitting the info. Please call or e-mail with any questions.

# You are invited!

for more info call 802-886-5242

## Taste of WINTER Bazaar

*Highlighting Communities Served by SAPCC in North Windham and South Windsor*

Date: 02/23/13 Time: 12:00pm—3pm

Location: SAPCC, 6 Main Street, N. Springfield, VT

**Free and Open to the Public**  
**Activities:**

- Music for all Ages with Local Community Food Bazaar in Conference Center/Café
- Children's Scavenger Hunt - with activity stamps and prize upon completion
- Paul Ippolito to conduct Children's sing-a-long in Karen's Room
- Winter Arts and Craft Activities in Karen's Room

*Plus a Raffle for a chance to win a variety of great door prizes*

