



Arlington Area Childcare DBA Happy Days Playschool

Annual Report

2009 - 2010

www.happydaysplayschool.org



Profile

Arlington Area Childcare, Inc. is a non-profit, United Way Agency operating a state accredited early care and education center, Happy Days Playschool in Arlington, Vermont. The major goal of AACI is to keep quality early care and education affordable and accessible to all young children in the Arlington area. This year AACI operated 4 preschool classes, an infant, toddler and two's class, and an afterschool and summer program for 5-12 year olds.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide quality early education and childcare in a consistent, caring and positive atmosphere by using a family centered approach.

Location

Happy Days Playschool is located in its own building, built in 2002. Centrally located at 426 East Arlington Road, Arlington, Vermont it is within walking distance of the elementary school, high school and town library.

Board Members

Nicol Whalen, President
Mary Beth Monahan
Erin McEnaney, Secretary
Mary Allen, V.P.
Nancy Cefalo
Kim Clark
Janice Quartararo

Executive Director

Carol Barbierri, Executive Director of AACI since its inception in 1984 has a BS in Elementary and Special Education, a MEd in Essential Early Education and a Director's Credential from the State of Vermont. Carol's teaching license with the Dept. of Education was reinstated this year.

Accomplishments and Celebrations 2009-2010

We welcomed the challenges faced in our 26th year of providing a quality early care and education program. Despite the impact on our program from the economy and the opening of a public pre-k in the community, we are pleased that we had no staff turnover and were able to hire one more staff member this year. Our program maintained its quality by keeping 4 STARS for Vermont Accreditation and completed our final year of NAEYC national accreditation.

123 children attended our programs this year with 63 from Arlington, 8 from Sandgate, 26 from Sunderland, and 26 from other nearby towns. The towns of Arlington, Sandgate and Sunderland continue to support us with general town dollars. We are very appreciative of their support.

Accomplishments.....

- All staff received instruction in the Foundations of Early Learning that increased their awareness and knowledge of teaching social emotional skills to young children, babies to pre-k.
- Twelve years of providing an Arts Enrichment program: This year focusing on Nature Art using natural materials and the environment to explore the world of art.
- Director and Assistant Director were trained in the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), which is an observation instrument used to assess classroom quality. We will be using the Pre-K standards for our teacher evaluations this year.
- Assistant Director was trained in the Environmental Rating System (ECERS) that is used to assess quality in an early childhood group.
- Continued established partnerships with Head Start and Sunderland School District, and created a new partnership with Shaftsbury School District.
- Collaborated with Fisher School to facilitate the 21st Century Grant. Happy Days now provides afterschool care for K-2 students from Arlington and K-6 students from Sunderland.
- Community awareness of Happy Days Playschool and the services offered here has been increased this year through the No Strings Marionette puppet show we sponsored and the Nature Art Exhibit at the Martha Canfield Library.

Message from the AACI Board.....

The Board would like to extend their appreciation and recognition to the Staff and Administration of Happy Days Playschool for their continued efforts to make a difference in our community. In their role as teachers, caring adults and responsible community members they are the core of this program. We are grateful for their commitment to providing the best possible program for the children of our community—pursuing their own professional development, ensuring the financial viability of the program, or implementing new concepts and curriculum in the classroom. This community is fortunate to have this resource and we thank those who make this program possible.

AACI Board of Directors

Happy Days Playschool Staff Members

Director: Carol Barbierr, MEd, Director Credential

Assistant Director: Peggy Hanson, AA, Director Credential

Secretary: Cedar Stratmann, CDA, AA

Cook: Roberta Stannard, Culinary Nutritionist

Head Teachers:

Sarah Bowen, CDA

Michelle Ennis, CDA

Sharron Harrington, CDA

Erin King, CDA

Jayne Lewicki, AA

Stacey Martin, BA

Cindy Pike, Schoolage Teacher Certificate

Assistant Teachers:

Kim Baldwin, BA

Jessie Cerretani, CDA

Jessica Cone, CDA

Ashley Gillis

Jasmine Merrero-Pratt, BA, MSW

Brenda Lewis

Kayla Peters, CDA

Christina Ripley, CDA

The Child Development Associate or CDA is a national credential that combines college, non-credit course work and assessment.

2010 - 2011 Goals

1. Review, evaluate and revise, if needed, the Mission of Arlington Area Childcare.
2. Review, evaluate and revise the By-laws of Arlington Area Childcare.
3. Attain STARS, Vermont Accreditation, using the ECERS assessment
4. Review and revise the evaluation process of our program and activities by the teachers and parents.
5. Use the CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) to evaluate teachers and assistants in the preschool classrooms.
6. Increase parent awareness and involvement in Parent Group activities and fundraising.
7. Increase parent/child literacy and math opportunities and activities.
8. Encourage and promote increased partnerships with local schools and community organizations.
9. Review and update the Executive Director evaluation process.
10. Create a schedule for review/ update of Board and Program policy documents.

ITERS, ECERS, SACERS are environmental rating scales used by trained observers to observe and evaluate infant, toddler, preschool and schoolage classrooms at child care facilities. These assessments are used in our reapplication process for STARS (Vermont's Step Ahead Recognition System, www.dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/stars). STARS recognize activities and accomplishments of child care and education programs that go above and beyond the state regulations. We have recently completed ITERS and ECERS reviews on our infant, toddler and preschool classrooms.

Financial Data – 7/1/09 – 6/30/10

Income

Tuition	\$ 468,706
Fund Raising	7,259
Grants	114,117
Appropriations,	
Donations, Food Program	<u>30,932</u>
	\$ 621,014

Expenses

Administration	\$ 25,487
Personnel & Benefits	374,625
Building, Food & Supplies	96,343
Staff Development	6,235
Grants, grant personnel, misc	<u>108,978</u>
	\$ 611,668



Peggy Hanson and Kim Ray at the Nature Art Exhibit.



Arts Enrichment Program Focuses on Nature Art

The Arts Enrichment Program this year focused on the works of Andy Goldsworthy during the Nature Art residency with Kim Ray, where children created temporary and permanent works of art using natural materials. Kim visited Happy Days throughout each of the four seasons and taught children about using their artist eyes to view the world. The nature artwork created was photographed and displayed at the Canfield Gallery to highlight their accomplishments. Natural materials such as stones, pinecones, leaves, seashells, snow, ice, hay, frost, water, flowers, feathers, tree branches and pine needles were used in the nature art explorations. Teachers and children continue to explore with natural materials, both within the classroom and outdoors.



Grants from Vermont Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts and the LEGO Children's foundation provided funding for the Nature Art Project.