



The Quest for Excellence and Community Impact

As new research and theory continually emerge in early education and child development, it is our responsibility as one of the largest and most comprehensive childcare providers on Cape Cod to explore and understand trends in these fields to inform best practices and ultimately, improve educational and care services.

What do best practices look like?

An inclusive setting in a Head Start classroom might feature small and large groups of children singing and dancing to promote language development. An after-school instructor might guide exploratory learning opportunities, such as sewing and chess, to reinforce academic content at school. It can include providing services in a community-based setting; for example, an occupational therapist might help a parent use adaptive equipment for their mobility-impaired toddler in their home, allowing that child to participate in normal family activities.

These are small reflections of outcome-driven practices designed to create quality programming that makes an impact in our children's lives: to position preschoolers for school readiness; to support overall academic success and social-emotional development of preadolescents; to improve the lives of infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities.



The ability to put theory into practice requires a professional wisdom that comes from experience and cultivation of skills through professional development opportunities, access to resources, and ongoing mentorship. In short, program quality is directly tied to staff training and support.

Investigating models and methods that exemplify high-quality staff development and also align with Cape Cod Child Development's family-centric

mission has led the Early Intervention program to embark on an ambitious training initiative that covers three program areas: team-based and collaborative approaches for children with significant disabilities; curriculum for Autism Spectrum Disorder; and relationship-based infant mental health screening and intervention.

One Size Doesn't Fit All

Within the support system of early intervention, it's critical that young children with disabilities participate fully and meaningfully within their learning and care environments with their normally-developed peers. In other words, it's essential to construct and facilitate inclusive settings. Doing so improves the child's chances of reaching normal milestones in development while building their coping confidence and independence. *(Continued on page 4)*

A Message from the Executive Director

Mary Pat Messmer

Dear Friends,

In our mission statement we proudly claim that our programs are “of the highest quality.” In this edition of *Child Developments* you will learn about the programs and activities that demonstrate in very concrete ways how we achieve this critical piece of our mission. More than proclaim that our work is high quality, we must establish benchmarks, assess progress and measure outcomes in all aspects of our organization.

We’re pleased to demonstrate in this newsletter, not only the breadth of the services we provide but also give a sense of the comprehensive nature of the work we do every day. Diverse cultures, individual learning styles, developmental

progress, and unique family needs challenge us to adapt our practice to be fully responsive and respectful of each family and child we serve. For us, the quality of family engagement is a key component of the work we do and the outcomes that are achieved.

You will learn through these articles that our staff are well trained and fully invested in their work. Intentional staff development and a focus on quality assure our leadership in the early education and care field. Our programs are supported by rich community partnerships that further improve our efforts through funding support, collaborative program activities and shared resources.

Our dedication to quality and improvement is unwavering. The commitment of our staff is matched by the commitment of our community. We are appreciative of all you do to support our efforts.

Best Wishes,



Home Away from Home

Supporting Quality Family Childcare Homes



Young children enjoy the festivities at Meg's Family Child Care.

High-quality childcare exists not only within the programs at Cape Cod Child Development, but also in the network of 35 family childcare homes for which the organization provides support. Expert home visitors, employed by Cape Cod Child Development, offer these providers technical support and guidance in curriculum development, equipment use, learning spaces, and more. Having access to the direct services and staff of Cape Cod Child Development makes this free system a true benefit to the community.

Childcare is offered year-round for children ages one month to twelve years in licensed homes throughout Cape Cod. Children are cared for in a small group setting and benefit from the individual attention they receive. In addition to receiving valuable socialization experiences, children are guided by an education-based curriculum, given nutritious snacks and meals, and rest and outdoor play—all based on their developmental stage. A professional

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Ready...Set...Grow!

Promoting Learning through Outdoor Spaces

"My favorite thing about the playground is looking for creatures like centipedes and potato bugs," exclaims Emily, a child in the Hyannis preschool. On a sunny day this summer, children enjoy the weather and new learning opportunities as part of a recently renovated outdoor play space at Cape Cod Child Development's Pearl Street campus. A small group of boys cheer each other on as they dangle one-by-one across the monkey bars. On the other side of the playground, several children gather around outdoor easels to paint their version of the landscape, while others crouch near the lavender and basil, taking in the sights and smells. These expanded areas extend the Preschool/Head Start program's comprehensive curriculum to the outdoors—allowing for even more opportunities for children to develop important skills.

There is more than meets the eye when you look at any of our eleven playgrounds located at each and every Preschool/Head Start site across Cape Cod and in Wareham. Not just a place for children to get fresh air and expend energy, these outdoor play spaces are thoughtfully designed to provide sensory experiences that support learning opportunities and encourage motor skill development in young children. "Children learn best by doing, experiencing and using hands-on investigation through their senses. Children are not passive observers but active investigators," explains Barbara Kozma, Education Coordinator for the Preschool/Head Start program. "In this way," she continues, "the outdoors offer children as much opportunity for active learning as they have inside." Science is at the heart of outdoor curriculum and teachers use time on the playground to support and watch for teachable moments when children make a discovery in their natural environment such



Two children reap the benefits of their hard work with harvested cucumbers their class will later eat for lunch.

as holding a creepy-crawly insect, digging sand tunnels, weeding the garden, or planting edible vegetables and herbs that can be used as part of a healthy meal.

Each center's playground is unique but share common features that allow children to engage in functional play—such as jumping, crawling, climbing, swinging and sliding—that aids in developing their gross motor skills and underscores Cape Cod Child Development's emphasis on the importance of health and wellness in early childhood. Children are able to learn different ways to control their movement by moving in different directions and at various speeds. In addition to motor skill development, teachers use the outdoors to foster creativity and imagination by bringing costumes, puppets and dress-up clothes outside for interactive and dramatic play. (Continued on page 5)

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Cape Cod Child Development was chosen by the Massachusetts state departments of Public Health and Early Education and Care to be the lead for a Cape Cod demonstration site to bring SpecialQuest Training Birth—Five to the community. This national training series promotes inclusive methods for infants and toddlers with significant disabilities by way of family leadership and empathetic involvement by staff.



Intended for local early childhood educators and childcare providers, a strategy to embed long-term, interactive learning experiences into service systems across Cape Cod is taking shape in three ways by:

1. orienting students enrolled in early childhood education classes at Cape Cod Community College to SpecialQuest methodologies;
2. offering community-wide SpecialQuest trainings for childcare providers and early childhood educators supporting infants, toddlers and preschoolers;
3. providing onsite “technical assistance” within childcare and early education settings with participating children present.

Relying on input from families as decision-makers, the support strategies caregivers learn from these community trainings can help them create informed and meaningful opportunities for children with disabilities to model their typically-developing peers in social skills, language and age-appropriate behaviors. As children with disabilities learn to navigate the challenges of their own special needs, these shared experiences pave the way for more positive social interaction and behavioral outcomes.

Families clearly benefit from providers who have the confidence that comes from previous experience working with children with special needs. This strategy to guide and encourage professionals to increase their willingness to accept and ability to support children most prone to exclusionary pressures is the first step to improving childcare and early education practices across Cape Cod.

To learn more about how best practices are implemented in autism therapy and infant mental health, look for more information in our next issue of *Child Developments*.

The Early Intervention professional development initiative is made possible in part by private support from The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation and the John W. Alden Trust.



INTRODUCING

Ryan & Sean

Age 5 ½ and 3 ½ - F.U.N. program

“I really appreciated being able to let the kids interact with children outside their school and from other areas of the Cape,” stated Ryan and Sean’s mom, Yvette. “Ryan had social issues and just for him to interact with other kids with the same interests really helped. I appreciate, as a parent, what you’re doing for the community.”



"That is going to turn into another cucumber!" exclaim two girls pointing to a flower on a cucumber plant. Children work together to plant, cultivate and harvest their vegetables that they later eat together for lunch.

Ready...Set...Grow!

(Continued from page 3)

An important feature of our playgrounds is access. "Our playgrounds strive to incorporate features that are designed to make them accessible to children of all abilities," says Jane LaCasse, Special Needs Coordinator, who describes wheelchair transfer stations, ground-level play stations, accessible sandboxes and crawl-through tubes that enable teachers to assist children with special needs in using the playground with their peers. As we continue to develop our play spaces, we work to build spaces that include all children.

At the center of these quality outdoor experiences is the child, who self-directs their time in a space that balances both quiet and active play. Cape Cod Child Development's play spaces bring the classroom outdoors and create boundless opportunities for children to learn while discovering their natural world and enjoying social, physical activity with their friends. These healthy learning environments support the cognitive and social-emotional development of young children, which will continue to lay the foundation for a lifetime of learning and healthy habits.

Support for outdoor spaces is provided in part by Head Start Body Start, M.L. Construction, Botello Lumber Company, and Littlefield Landscapes.



INTRODUCING

Joao Pedro & Anna Victoria

Age 4 and 3 - Preschool/Head Start program

After moving to Cape Cod from Brazil, the Araujo-Goncalves are enjoying the opportunities given to them in the Preschool program.

Marcia, their mom, says she loves that the program "can accommodate both children in the same school" and their favorite part of the program is "the curriculum and the attention given to her children."

Home Away from Home

(Continued from page 2)

development plan is shaped and adapted to meet the learning style and credentialing requirements of every childcare provider. One local family childcare provider who recently achieved national accreditation is Marjorie Wilson, owner of Meg's Family Child Care. Marjorie has over thirty years of experience providing childcare and this year, Marjorie achieved accreditation from the National Association of Family Child Care—an organization that aids providers in raising their standards of quality care. Marjorie says, "With the stresses and busy lifestyle in today's world, it takes a village to raise a child and more than ever before, families need support." She credits Cape Cod Child Development for being a helpful presence in her business and says, "It's nice to have a support system and someone to help support the families and their care."

For more information about eligibility, schedules and locations of family childcare homes, please call the Intake Department at 800-974-8860. Interested in becoming a childcare provider? Please contact Nancy Stillson at ext: 316.



Cape Cod Child Development Childcare Director, Ann Scott (right), congratulates scholarship recipient, Milly McCallops.

Milly McCallops

2010 Cathy Young Memorial Scholarship Award

Cape Cod Child Development is pleased to award the 2010 Cathy Young Memorial Scholarship to Milly McCallops of East Falmouth. Ms. McCallops hopes to become a Special Needs teacher and will be majoring in Special Education at Merrimack College/Assumption College this fall. "Milly is an impressive young woman and I wish nothing but the best for her. She will make a wonderful Special Needs teacher and give so much to this needy world of ours." declared Wayne Duchemin, Milly's Social Studies Teacher.

She was chosen for her hard work, commitment to children, and compassion for others—qualities that honor the legacy of Cathy Young, a teacher with Cape Cod Child Development for 17 years who is remembered for her outstanding commitment to children and families.



INTRODUCING Madison

Age 7 ½ - School-Age program

Madison and her mother Julie have been a part of Cape Cod Child Development since Madison was an infant in the Early Intervention program. Madison's journey brought her to the Head Start program (where Julie was a member of the Policy Council) and eventually landed her in the After-School program. Julie says, "I love Cape Cod Child Development. They are wonderful to Madison. She has something fun to do during the summer."

A Word from Stephen Botello

"With the tenth anniversary of our Annual Charity Golf Tournament, I wanted to reach out to everyone at Cape Cod Child Development with my great appreciation for all you do. My first dealing with CCCD was through the early intervention program. I was floored by, not only the knowledge of the people we were dealing with, but also the care of those involved. My boys have a syndrome called 18Q-. It is a rare genetic syndrome that presents different issues, both physical and mental. From day one you tackled each issue with us one at a time. You showed us what to do and how to do it. I watched in amazement while, with much hard work, my boys improved with the things most take for granted in normally developed children. What you did for my twins truly touched my heart. It made me realize this program must keep going so others will benefit as my family has. I can never thank you enough for what you've done. I am also extremely honored and proud of my employees, our sponsors, and everyone else involved in our tournament. Their enthusiasm and selfless efforts have made this event a success year after year."

- Stephen Botello

The staff, board and families of Cape Cod Child Development are truly grateful for ten years of charitable giving from Botello Lumber Company totaling \$95,500! Thank you for your continued support of our efforts to support the children and families of Cape Cod.

Thank you TD Bank!

Cape Cod Child Development's Executive Director Mary Pat Messmer, Center Director, Eileen Casey, and the children and teachers of the Hyannis After-School program pose with TD Bank's Peter Rice and John Hurley to present a \$5,000 grant donation from TD Charitable Foundation.

Thank you for your support!



A Special Thank You to . . .

Botello Lumber Company for donating proceeds in the amount of \$12,500 from the Botello Lumber Company Annual Charity Golf Tournament in support of general operations

Barnstable County Bar Association for donating proceeds in the amount of \$7,000 from the Annual Golf Tournament in support of general operations

To all the participants who supported the 5th Annual Ride for Literacy in which Cape Cod Child Development raised more than \$6,000 toward Preschool/Head Start literacy initiatives

Cape Cod Fishing \$5,000 Tournament for donating proceeds in the amount of \$2,500 from the Annual Cape Cod \$5,000 Fishing Tournament in support of general operations

Edwin and Carol McGuire for their most recent gift of \$5,000 in support of general operations

Mutual of America for their \$1,500 donation in support of general operations

First United Methodist Church and Bob Dawson for donating proceeds in the amount of \$1,220 from his "Breaking the Rules" Concert in support of Preschool/Head Start literacy initiatives

Church of the Messiah for their \$1,000 gift toward Falmouth School-Age scholarship program

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church for their \$1,000 donation toward the Falmouth Preschool/Head Start and School-Age programs

All-Cape Maytag for donating a new washing machine and stove to the Early Intervention program



New Grants

The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation: \$13,493 award toward adaptive equipment and assistive technology for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities

National Center for Physical Development and Outdoor Play: \$5,000 award from the Head Start Body Start program for the Bourne/Sandwich Preschool/Head Start outdoor playground

TD Charitable Foundation: \$5,000 award toward School-Age childcare including after-school and summer programming

Makepeace Neighborhood Fund (A.D. Makepeace Company): \$4,300 award toward "Technology for Early Education" for Wareham Head Start classrooms

Cape & Islands Youth Community Development Council (JTEC): \$2,400 award toward Teen Parent program educational series

The Woods Hole Foundation, Inc.: \$2,160 award toward the Falmouth School-Age program's Naturalist Activities initiative

Project Bread: \$1,000 award toward the agency's Emergency Food Pantry

Cape Cod Council of Churches: \$750 award toward the agency's Emergency Food Pantry



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Caring for Children and Families in Our Community

Mission Statement

Our mission is to serve as a community resource that provides childcare, educational and developmental intervention, and family support services. We offer child-focused, family-centered programs that are affordable, accessible and of the highest quality. The agency staff and associated professionals work in partnership with families and others in the community to build on each child's unique strengths, ensuring positive growth and development.

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Moving? Send your change of address to: Cape Cod Child Development Mailing List, 83 Pearl Street, Hyannis, MA 02601 or email it to: info@cccdp.org.

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Cape Cod Child Development Programs

- **Early Intervention**
developmental assessment and service, birth to age 3 years
- **Families United Network (F.U.N.)**
parent education and playgroups for children birth to age 4 years
- **Family Child Care**
licensed provider homes, children ages 3 months to 13 years
- **Preschool/Head Start**
preschool programs, children ages 3 to 5 years
- **School-Age Child Care**
school-age children ages 5 to 13 years
- **Teen Parent Program**
support for teen parents through age 19