

Alternatives For Children



www.alternativesforchildren.org

FALL 2016

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN YEAR END ANNUAL APPEAL THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS & THEIR FAMILIES

Our son has been at AFC 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 AFC has been the best decision we've made.

What a wonderful place. Our child loves going to school, smiles all day, and returns home with a treasure trove of news and stories. Thank you!

The team working with my child at AFC is extraordinary. I am satisfied with the progress and improvements my child has made and I am very blessed to have each one of them helping my son develop every day.

Everyone that has been working with my son has been nothing but amazing! He continues to show improvement each week. I couldn't be happier with all of his teachers and staff. Thank you so much.

We appreciate all the efforts the teachers, therapists, and staff put in to make a difference in our children. What I see every day in my child is a miracle involving small steps. I know he is in the right place where he can get all the help he needs. Thanks again for all you do for our children.

I could not be more pleased with the teachers, therapists, and staff at Alternatives. My child has made great progress this past year and she loves going to school!

We all know in our hearts that charitable giving is a noble gesture that can potentially benefit many. We understand that you, our generous friends, must choose carefully what organizations you support. We also understand that in these challenging economic times that people intent on giving must find ways to budget their charitable contributions so such donations do not negatively affect their personal finances.



Although we ask for your support during the year for our two major fundraisers, our Golf Outing and Road Rally, we also reach out to you during the holiday season, counting on your spirit of generosity and good will that is synonymous with the season.

We know that the holidays can be a particularly trying time of year on finances. Already strained budgets may be pinched even further as we shop for our loved ones for the holidays and plan for time spent together as family. We only ask that when you are thinking of your end of the year giving that you consider Alternatives For Children and the difference we make in the lives of children with special needs and disabilities and their families.

Determine what you can afford. We would never pressure you to stretch your budget because you feel your contribution is insignificant. Every little bit helps.

You might consider splitting your donation into installments if you're not able to make a lump sum donation. Many people find it's much easier to gather a few dollars here and there than to part with a large amount of money all at once. You can donate at any time throughout the year on our website.



You might consider asking family or friends to donate to Alternatives For Children in lieu of a gift when your birthday rolls around. This allows you to contribute even if you're financially incapable of making your own donation.

However you give, whatever you give,
know that you help us make a difference
in the life of a child with special needs.

<http://www.alternatives4children.org/make-a-difference.html>

Please mail in your Donation Today!
Alternatives For Children
14 Research Way
East Setauket, NY 11733
or donate on our website

<http://www.alternatives4children.org/make-a-difference.html>

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
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Child Day Care
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ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends - *Has a child with a disability or special needs touched your life?*

More than likely you have personal family experience or know a family who has been impacted by the birth of a child with a disability or special needs. *Who do families throughout Long Island turn to when they are faced with this journey?*

For the past twenty-eight years over 12,000 families in our communities have turned to *Alternatives For Children*. Why?

Because like you, they know that *they will receive absolute top-notch educational/therapeutic services for their child*. You also know that their child will be treated like a person, not a diagnosis or disability, by *dedicated, compassionate special education professionals in a warm, caring environment*.

Your contributions have helped make Alternatives For Children *a leader in providing quality care to all these children with special needs*. We are so grateful to you for helping to create and support our committed team.

You are helping Alternatives For Children *touch the lives of so many Long Island families*. Your contribution provides a place for families of children with special needs to turn to when everything else seems to be falling apart. Through your financial support *you help make their journey a little less difficult*. Your gift of \$100 or more will help make an immediate impact on the urgent needs of these children. *All of our children and families are counting on your support*.

To make it easier for you to donate, *visit our website and make your contribution there!* Your donation is helping to *make a difference in our children's future* and will help to give them the tools they need to succeed. Everyone here who works to provide for and serve the children joins me in *thanking you for your generous partnership and support*.

Marie E. Ficano, Ed.D.

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

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN TRUSTEE CHRISTINA VAN VORT

NAMED ONE OF LONG ISLAND'S TOP 50 WOMEN BY LONG ISLAND BUSINESS NEWS

Congratulations to Christina Van Vort, Alternatives For Children Trustee, for being honored as one of the Top 50 Most Influential Women in Business. Launched in 2000 by Long Island Business News, the Top 50 Most Influential Women in Business program has recognized the Island's top women professionals for business acumen, mentoring and community involvement and represent the most influential women in business, government and the not-for-profit fields.

Christina Van Vort is a Partner Director of Garfunkel Wild, P.C., which she joined in 1999. She advises clients on a wide variety of corporate, regulatory, and transactional matters. Ms.

Van Vort's practice includes corporate governance and transactions, health care regulation, including HIPAA compliance, financing, acquisitions and sales of health systems, nursing homes, hospitals, home health agencies, physician practices and other health industry clients.

In addition, Ms. Van Vort has worked extensively on the formation of new not-for-profit corporations, and the legal requirements governing not-for-profit corporations in New York.

Ms. Van Vort received her B.S. in mathematics/computer science and Spanish from SUNY Binghamton in 1986 and her J.D. from Brooklyn Law School in 1993.

Congratulations Tina, and thank you for the hours of time and energy you spend on behalf of Alternatives For Children.

On what inspires her and why, Ms. Van Vort said "My three teenage children inspire me to be my best and set a good example. I want them to take pride in what they do and to follow their dreams. I believe that one can do that and maintain their values and be respectful of others."



ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN
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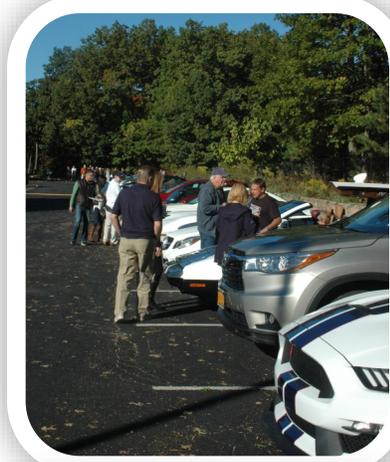
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William & Kathleen Mich

Nicole Stock

Robert Wagner

In Memory of Michael Conza



**Thanks for all the goodies
In our Swag Bags!**

Many Thanks to

Jim Buzzetta - Road Rally Chair

Our Rally Masters

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Those who purchased raffle tickets

Alternatives For Children Staff

Our Wonderful Parents

Mercedes-Benz Financial





Social and emotional well-being sets the foundation for the development and learning of infants, toddlers and young children. The Early Childhood Advisory Council - comprised of experts in child care, education, health care, family support and mental health - has identified the critical need to better support and teach young children and families social and emotional skills. In response, the New York State Council on Children and Families took the lead in bringing together a team of public and private agencies to form a new partnership to provide more early childhood professional development opportunities. This new partnership, the New York State Pyramid Model Partnership, will promote the statewide use of the Pyramid Model (PBIS), an evidence-based framework proven to be an effective approach to building social and emotional competence in early care and education programs.

Alternatives For Children has long used Positive Behavioral Supports in our classrooms and therapeutic settings. When used in conjunction with other behavioral programs a synergistic effect occurs, enabling children to feel empowered and competent. They experience kindness and compassion, qualities that lead to positive self-images, confidence, alertness, and open-mindedness. The positive behavioral results are observed in classrooms, therapy centers, hallways, and playgrounds. When necessary, parents participate in individual and group PBS training sessions. The school's practices are then generalized to children's homes and community environments with parent involvement. Using PBS, we strive to improve children's functioning and help them compensate for and adjust to their disabilities in preparation for full, rewarding, and successful lives.

Based on the strengths of our current practices, Alternatives For Children applied for and has been accepted to be a pilot program in Cohort I of the implementation of the Preschool Pyramid Model in New York State. We are proud to have been selected as one of twenty participating schools/agencies that make up Cohort I. This Fall, all AFC staff attended a workshop presentation overview of the PBIS Preschool Pyramid Model.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
PBIS provides ideas to support teaching, modeling and recognizing positive, appropriate behavior in schools and identifies systems for logically responding to classroom and individual student problems.
PBIS is NOT a curriculum, intervention, or practice, but IS a systems change framework that guides selection, integration, and implementation of the best evidence-based practices for improving behavior outcomes for all students while increasing opportunities for academic engagement.

We are excited about this undertaking as we continue to grow the qualities that make Alternatives For Children a leader in providing quality care to all children, but especially to those who need it most, at the most critical time in their development.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN SOUTHAMPTON & AQUEBOGUE
UNDERGO REVIEW PROCESS FOR QUALITYSTARSNY

Two of our locations, Alternatives For Children Aquebogue and Alternatives For Children Southampton, have just begun the lengthy process to attain a QualityStarsNY rating. Star ratings for early childhood programs are based on two criteria; Documentation Review and Environment Rating Scales. During the Self-study process, we must submit documentation demonstrating that our programs meet Program Standards. A team of raters review all documentation to determine the number of "points" we will receive towards a star rating. The second criterion involves an independent evaluation of our classrooms using the Environmental Rating Scale tool. During this process, an assessor physically observes each room to evaluate it on many known indicators of quality. Points earned for ERS are added to the points earned in the Provisional Rating to generate an Active Rating.

- QualityStarsNY Standards are organized into four categories:
- Learning Environment
 - Family Engagement
 - Qualifications and Experience
 - Management and Leadership

Tremendous THANKS to all our East End Staff for all their hard work!



ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN
CREATIVE CURRICULUM SIXTH EDITION

This September, Alternatives for Children began using the Creative Curriculum Sixth Edition. This curriculum allows our teachers and therapists to utilize best practices as well as developmentally appropriate practices for each child. The Creative Curriculum is an extensive curriculum based on research and theory of child development. Throughout the school year, children explore a variety of studies through first-hand exploration and discovery. Each study is presented in an interactive manner that encourages all children to discover and learn. Teachers are able to structure instruction so each child receives appropriate support to ensure success. The Creative Curriculum includes educational activities for interest areas as well as lessons in literacy, math, science and social studies. Additionally, social and emotional skills are a focus of this curriculum, giving children the opportunity to learn about sharing, turn taking and self help skills. We focus on teaching the “whole child” and include plenty of physical activity and chances to physically explore literacy, math, science, social studies, technology and the arts.

Creative Curriculum Studies

Throughout the school year, children explore a variety of studies through first hand exploration and discovery. Each study is presented in an interactive manner that encourages all children to discover and learn.

Trees Clothes Buildings Balls
Wheels Water Exercise Boxes
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
Getting Ready for Kindergarten



More Knowledge More Resources More Learning

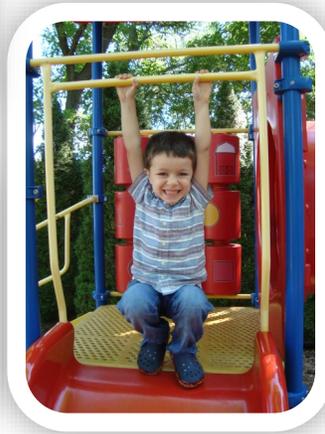
Thirty-eight research-based objectives are the heart of the curriculum and define the path teachers take with children in their classroom. They inform every aspect of teaching, include predictors of school success, and are aligned with the Prekindergarten Foundation Common Core Learning Standards. The objectives cover ten areas of development and learning, including broad developmental areas, content areas, and English language acquisition.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN AQUEBOGUE
CREATIVE CURRICULUM – IT’S ALL IN A DAY OF LEARNING

Creative Curriculum What’s It All About?

Large Group Time Small Group Discovery
Read Alouds Discussion & Shared Writing
Literacy Activities Outdoor Exploration
Hands-On Science Learning Math Skills
Movement Art Dramatic Play Music & Song
Computer Toys & Games Center Time
Self-Help Skills Sharing Social/Emotional Skills
Family Engagement

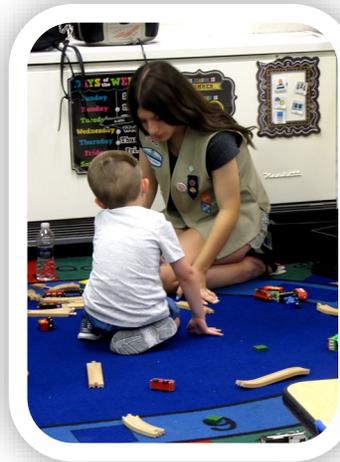
Learning & Growing!
It Looks like Child’s Play!



ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN DIX HILLS
A VISIT FROM CADETTE TROOP 783

It was just a little over a year and a half ago that Maribeth Kramer contacted us on behalf of Cadette Troop 783 who wanted to do a project involving Alternatives For Children Dix Hills. Just recently these incredible young women were presented with their Silver Awards at the Town of Huntington Service Unit Award Ceremony.

That alone would have been fine and reason for congratulations. But, there is more to the story. These girls could have done their project and walked away from Alternatives For Children Dix Hills knowing that they did something really good. That is not what they chose to do. They have come back several times to Dix Hills to read books to the children, play with them, and bring smiles to everyone's faces! Priceless!



What's Better Than Playing on the Floor?

Alternatives For Children Congratulates

Alyssa Antonucci Haley Cascio Samantha Deiches Melissa Garber Kelly Kramer Emily Stein Sophia Vespoli
on Completion of the Cadette Girl Scout Troop 783 Project
Puppet Theater for the Children of Alternatives For Children Dix Hills
and the Attainment of the Girl Scout Silver Award Recognizing that they are leaders
who are organized, determined, and dedicated to improving their community.
Earning the award puts them among an exceptional group of girls
who have used their knowledge and leadership skills to make a difference in the world.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN
FIRE SAFETY MONTH – A VISIT FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS

We celebrated Fire Safety Month in October with visits from the Jamesport, Setauket and Southampton Fire Departments. Aside from just being a fun day for the children, this event is important because we know that there are special challenges associated with teaching fire safety to children who have special needs.

Most children learn about Stop, Drop, and Roll at an early age - in kindergarten or preschool - but they may not understand what it really means for a few years after that. Children with special needs have unique difficulties that typical children do not have to contend with, and it's important to prepare our students for what they might hear and see and need to do in case of fire either at school or at home.

In a fire, it's important for children to go to the firefighter, not run away and hide. This is especially difficult and challenging for our students with autism spectrum or sensory processing disorders. The goal of these Fire Safety days is to get children used to being around first responders, showing them what uniforms look like and giving them positive experiences before they or their family have an emergency. Many of our students get overloaded by noise or flashing lights, causing them to shut down, so showing them the lights and sirens on a firetruck or a firefighter in full gear in a safe setting can help.

Observing – Learning – Exploring



Now we know what to do and
where to go
if there is a fire
at school or in our house!
And, not to be afraid
of the firefighters
when they have on
their firefighting gear!

Thank You!

Jamesport Fire Department
Setauket Fire Department
Southampton Fire Department

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN SOUTHAMPTON
FALL FUN WITH THE CREATIVE CURRICULUM

For the Creative Curriculum Tree Study, classes at Alternatives For Children Southampton made bird feeders. A fun activity that required the students to use their pincer grasp and put fruit loops onto pipe cleaners; working on many fine motor IEP goals.

Through various small group discoveries and large group activities the students have learned the importance of trees and how they provide food and shelter for different animals. The classes have also placed bird feeders outside their classroom to observe the birds coming to the tree to eat a Fall fun treat.

And they Make it All Look Like Such FUN!



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Integrating Learning Standards - Curriculum - IEP Goals

The Prekindergarten Foundation Common Core Learning Standards are the foundation upon which all educational/therapeutic practices at Alternatives For Children are built. The Creative Curriculum Sixth edition is utilized to ensure that strategies to implement IEP goals are directly related to the NYS CCLS.

Our teachers, therapists and support personnel are trained to deliver high quality, evidence-based, specially designed instruction and support services to guide young children in learning and acquiring necessary content and skills.





Alternatives
For Children

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SAVE THE DATE
12th Annual Golf Outing



Thursday, June 1, 2017
Huntington Crescent Club

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN
AN EXCITING CAREER IS WAITING FOR YOU!

As Alternatives For Children continues to grow and expand our programs we seek caring and compassionate individuals to join our dedicated team.

Full-Time and Part-Time positions are available!

We welcome you to explore our wide ranging employment opportunities on our website
<http://www.alternatives4children.org/employment-opportunities.html>
a fulfilling and rewarding career might be waiting for you!

Send Cover Letter and Resume to annemarie.mongiardo@alternativesforchildren.org
Annemarie Mongiardo
Alternatives For Children
14 Research Way
East Setauket, NY 11733
631-331-6400 x152

