



Alternatives For Children



www.alternativesforchildren.org

SPRING 2019

TOWN OF BROOKHAVE DIVISION OF WOMEN'S SERVICES 33RD ANNUAL WOMEN'S RECOGNITION AWARDS

“Dr. Ficano has been a colleague, mentor, and “boss” at Alternatives for Children for over 30 years. She exemplifies the characteristics that our society says it most values – dedication, hard work, and loyalty. She has guided the growth and sustenance of Alternatives for Children, a not-for-profit private school for special and regular education programs and services for children with disabilities and their typically developing peers, since the beginning. Alternatives For Children now has locations in East Setauket, Southampton, Aquebogue, and Dix Hills servicing fifty five school districts across Long Island and within Brookhaven Town, and over 500 families each year.



Maybe you have not heard about Marie Ficano before. That is undoubtedly because she devotes all of her time to the children, families, and staff of Alternatives For Children. She consciously chooses to keep out of the limelight, focusing instead on the day-to-day challenges of adhering to our mission – to provide the highest quality special and regular education programs and services. She has done this consistently within, and sometimes in spite of, regulatory and fiscal changes and challenges. While Dr. Ficano is not well known through the media, most families who have been impacted by a child with disabilities in Brookhaven Town would be familiar with the programs she has built and protected on their behalf.

Those who know her are daily impressed with how Dr. Ficano leads this large organization with steadfast focus and a constant eye toward the future. Alternatives for Children quietly employs hundreds of people and often gives the graduating student or new professional their first chance at a career.”

excerpts from Elizabeth Schwartz's nomination letter

Town of Brookhaven 2019 Women's Services Honoree for Education
Nominated by New York State Senator Kenneth P. LaValle & Elizabeth K. Schwartz, MA, LCAT, MT-BC

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN INTRODUCING THE SCERTS MODEL



The acronym “SCERTS” refers to the focus on: “SC” - Social Communication: the development of spontaneous, functional communication, emotional expression and secure and trusting relationships with children and adults. “ER” - Emotional Regulation: the development of the ability to maintain a well-regulated emotional state to cope with everyday stress, and to be most available for learning and interacting. “TS” – Transactional Support: the development and implementation of supports to help partners respond to the person’s needs and interests, modify the environment, and provide tools to enhance learning.

The SCERTS Model includes a well-coordinated and flexible assessment process that helps a team measure the child’s progress, and determine the necessary supports to be used by the child’s partners (educators, peers and family members). This assessment process ensures that:

- functional, meaningful and developmentally appropriate goals and objectives are selected
- individual differences in a child’s style of learning, interests, and motivations are respected
- parents are included as partners and the culture and lifestyle of the family are understood and respected
- the child is engaged in meaningful and functional activities throughout the day
- supports are developed and used consistently across partners, activities, and environments
- a child’s progress is systematically charted over time
- program quality is measured frequently to assure accountability

The SCERTS Model is a research-based educational approach and multidisciplinary framework that directly addresses the core challenges faced by children with ASD and related disabilities, and their families.

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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ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Family and Friends of Alternatives For Children,

So another school year draws to a close. I am confident that the children in our program have had a successful year. Our goal at Alternatives For Children is to build the foundation on which further learning can stand upon. Many of our children will leave in June ready to learn and ready for Kindergarten!

We encourage our parents to continue to be advocates for their child. The journey is long and parents should remain partners with their local school districts, always remembering that they know their child best and are their strongest and greatest advocates!

Please make plans to join us for two early June events; our Sounds and Sights Concert on June 9th and our Golf & Tennis Outing on June 10th!

I thank you for your continued support and generous spirit!

Marie E. Ficano, Ed.D.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN MUSIC & ART FESTIVAL



Music Therapist Beth Schwartz is retiring after 30 years of bringing Music to the lives of our children!

Come and Join with all our Music Therapists in a Joyful Celebration of SONG!

Favorites from Miss Lee, Miss Suzanne, Miss Anne and many of our Music Therapy Interns from past years!

**featuring
ARTWORK created by your Children!**

SUNDAY JUNE 9th

2:30—3:30 pm

**Gelinas Junior High School
25 Mud Rd, Setauket, NY 11733**

**Alternatives
For Children**

Tickets \$5 per person \$12 per family



Tickets will be available at the Door

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN
14TH ANNUAL GOLF & TENNIS OUTING

Port Jefferson Country Club

Monday, June 10, 2019

44 Fairview Drive Port Jefferson NY 11777

- _____ I will bring a foursome to this year's outing
\$1,600 foursome entry fee enclosed
(\$600 tax deductible) Includes breakfast, Grillin' & Chillin' BBQ Lunch, Dinner, greens fee, cart
- _____ I will play in this year's outing
\$400 individual entry fee enclosed
(\$150 tax deductible) Includes breakfast, Grillin' & Chillin' BBQ Lunch, Dinner, greens fee, cart
- _____ I will play Tennis/Round Robin Tournament/Dinner
\$275 individual entry fee enclosed
(\$75 tax deductible) Includes Tournament play, use of equipment, 1 hour Pro clinic, Cocktail Hour & Dinner
- _____ I will play Tennis ONLY option
\$ 125 individual entry fee enclosed
(\$75 tax deductible) Includes Tournament play, use of equipment, 1 hour Pro clinic (no meals)

I will be an event sponsor for this year's Outing

- _____ Platinum Sponsor \$5,000
(\$3,500 tax deductible)
- _____ Gold Sponsor \$2,850
(\$1,850 tax deductible)
- _____ Silver Sponsor \$1,500
(\$1,250 tax deductible)
- _____ I will sponsor a hole in this year's event,
\$350 enclosed per hole sponsorship,
(fully tax deductible)
- _____ I will sponsor a Hole in One in this year's event
\$500 enclosed per Hole in One sponsorship
(fully tax deductible)

_____ Dinner only @ \$150 per person = _____

I cannot attend, but please accept my donation of
\$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Sponsorship Opportunities

Platinum Sponsor - \$5,000

Awards Dinner Sponsor

- ◇ Golf foursome
- ◇ Prominent corporate signage at venue
- ◇ Sponsor Board
- ◇ Hole Sign
- ◇ Four additional guests for dinner

Gold Sponsor - \$2,850

Barbeque Lunch Sponsor

- ◇ Golf foursome
- ◇ Prominent corporate signage at venue
- ◇ Sponsor Board
- ◇ Hole Sign

Silver Sponsor - \$1,500

Registration Sponsor

- ◇ Play for one golfer
- ◇ Prominent corporate signage at venue
- ◇ Sponsor Board

Hole in One Sponsor - \$500

- ◇ Company name on Hole in One Sign

Hole Sponsor - \$350

- ◇ Company name on Hole Sign

Day's Events

- 10:30 am GOLFER Registration & Brunch
- 12:30 pm Shotgun Start
- 12:30 pm TENNIS Registration
- 5:00 pm Cocktail Hour & Dinner to Follow
Silent Auction & Basket Raffle



Name _____ Company Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Make Checks payable to Alternatives For Children 14 Research Way East Setauket, NY 11733
Credit Cards accepted - Visa, Master Card, American Express
REGISTER ONLINE on or before May 31st at <http://www.alternativesforchildren.org/golf.html>

Card Type _____ Card # _____ Exp. Date _____
Print Name _____ Signature _____
Golfer #1 _____ Golfer #2 _____
Golfer #3 _____ Golfer #4 _____

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN AQUEBOGUE MYSTERY READERS & CLASSROOM VISITORS

The children love when a Mystery Reader comes to visit and surprise them with a favorite book! Readers choose an age-appropriate book to read to the class. Some readers select favorite stories from their childhood. Some bring props or costumes related to their stories.

During our Creative Curriculum Investigative Study of Clothes we also learned from one of our Moms about all the types of clothes that are made from YARN!

One of our Dads came and built a wooden car for us!



We LOVE when our Moms & Dads
Come to read a Book to us!
The Polar Express
Baby Animals

Many THANKS to our families for
sharing their time & talents with us!

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN DIX HILLS SCIENCE EXPLORERS

Children are often excited about learning, especially if that learning is disguised as fun, engaging activities that mimic play. When you start STEM education at a young age, you don't have to fight a child to try an experiment or convince her why she should enjoy learning about it.

Children are also naturally inquisitive. Think of the millions of questions you might hear from a child. Why is the sky blue? Why did that sink? Can people live on the moon? Who invented cheese? Hearing those questions gets a little old, but they're a sign of the innate curiosity that defines childhood. Our teachers, by providing materials for exploration and making STEM education fun and exciting, capitalize on the children's natural scientist tendencies before they fizzle.

STEM concepts rely heavily on problem solving. Those problem-solving skills a child gains can be applied to many areas of life, even if it isn't STEM related. By making science fun and encouraging that problem-solving mentality, teachers help children reframe challenging situations into problems they can figure out how to solve.

The research is quite clear that the best practice in early childhood education is to break away from passive instruction and allow for more play and investigation, and this kind of learning early in life builds skills and interests that serve children throughout their school years, and later in life. Joshua Sneiderman - Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow at the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.



ScienceExplorers



ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN EAST SETAUKET
 MASTER GARDENER CHOOSES ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN FOR ACTION PROJECT

It started with a phone call - and grew from there! Mary Fitzpatrick, a Port Jefferson resident who was pursuing her Master Gardener certification was put in touch with Alternatives For Children as a possible “match” for her Action Project. Mary believed that a project of building a garden in some form would provide a horticulturally therapeutic impact on the children that we provide programming and services for.

A committee made up of East Setauket classroom teachers and occupational therapists met with Mary to brainstorm ideas for the gardens. A plan was formulated to design/create a multi-sensory garden for teachers, occupational therapists, speech therapists to use with our preschool special education students. The “gardens” at Alternatives For Children will be an effective and engaging way to:

- Integrate STEM activities into the investigative studies of the Creative Curriculum to meet many of the NYS Learning Standards for Preschool and the Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core.
- Introduce a wide range of sensory stimuli (touch, smell, taste, hearing, sight) to allow staff to work with our many students who have certain sensory aversions because of their disability.
- Edible crops will be grown to be used by speech language pathologists and classroom teachers to help the children with various aversions to certain foods/textures.
- Offer our students an increased understanding of nutrition along with environmental awareness.



- TOUCH**
 Lamb’s Ear
 Woolly Thyme
 Yarrow
 Silver Sage
 Ferns
 Mosses
SMELL
 Lavender
 Lemon balm
 Lemon verbena
 Mint
 Rosemary
TASTE
 Chives
 Basil
 Dill
 Parsley
 Cilantro
 Oregano

The knowledge, research based solutions, guidance, and expertise of Master Gardener Mary Fitzpatrick, in line with Cornell Cooperative Extension’s mission, will enable us to provide for our students garden-based learning opportunities.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN SOUTHAMPTON
 CREATIVE CURRICULUM BOX STRUCTURE COMPETITION

Our 2nd Annual “What can We Build with Boxes? Competition” was a great cooperative learning experience and a lot of FUN! Classes at all our locations planned and executed the construction of a GROUP “building” or other “structure” or “creation” using boxes. Teachers discussed with the children what they wanted for the design, how they would work together and plan their construction. We were not looking for perfection – this would be the children’s work.



Table for 2
 at our
 Pizza
 Restaurant!



All Aboard
 the
 Southampton Express!

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN 22ND ANNUAL CLASSIC & SPORTS CAR RALLY
A GREAT SUCCESS!

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Many Thanks to

Jim Buzzetta - Road Rally Chair
Our Rally Masters
Dr. Mark DiBenedetto
Dr. Michael Fishkin
Mr. Jim Lynch
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Basket Raffle Donors
Alternatives For Children Staff & our Wonderful Parents



People's Choice Award Winner



Rally Chair Jim Buzzetta receives a Driving Award from the Mercedes-Benz Club of America NYC-LI Section



ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN
30TH ANNIVERSARY CASINO NIGHT

Jackpot Sponsors

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Alternatives For Children Thirty Year Employees
TA Deb Lampedusa, Music Therapist Beth Schwartz,
Dr. Barbie Whiteside, Coordinator Psych/SW Dept.
(missing from photo Sharon Bigin - HR Director)

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN
AFFINITY MEMBERS



COMPETITION IS GOOD
competitionautogroup.com

Jim Buzzetta



Dr. & Mrs. Fred Mendelsohn



Victor Nelson



The premier management service for mobile diagnostic practices

John Knab



Benjamin Senders



Mike Russell

Sean & Lauren Russell

Russell Family

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Deniz Atasoy

Shannan Maida



Alternatives For Children 30th Anniversary
Las Vegas Trip Winner
Alternatives For Children East End Staff member
Christine LoPiano

