

Kent Children's Center

Toni Hanny, Director

The Kent Children's Center is entering its 31st year as Kent's oldest NAEYC accredited Early Learning Center.

The Center is state licensed to provide care to 20 children at any one time, creative scheduling has enabled us to offer services to 51 families with 54 children during the 2005-2006 calendar year. Our program is open to children with special needs and this year we have had children with special needs enrolled in our program.

The Center's many programs include a before and after school program, a full day program, a morning and afternoon program and even a modified full day program that simulates a true kindergarten environment. In addition, we offer a summer preschool program as needed.

The Children's Center offers a progressive and nurturing environment that embraces a philosophy of diversity, encourages independent choices, and instills a sense of self-worth with respect for others. Our Enrichment program provides creative stimulation that focuses on the whole child and fosters discoveries through a hands-on program relevant to each individual child and his level of development.

In addition, our Community Involvement program gives our children many opportunities to participate in humanitarian endeavors. Over the years the Children's Center has raised monies to support the Special Olympics, initiated pen-pal programs with children from other cultures, collected foods for the Kent Food Bank, and even helped a village in Teupasenti, Honduras buy a goat through the Children's Rescue Mission.

Last year, our children joined forces with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in their mission to find a cure. The idea of children helping children inspired our students to sell blue bracelets for the JDRF, our children successfully raised over \$335.00 for this worthy cause. Also, as our commitment to the children of the community, educational programs such as a preschool "Hands Are for Hugging Not Hitting" program and "A Bullying" program, as well as Sharon Audubon's Raptor program are always open to all.

Slightly over 64.7% of the Center's budget is funded by tuition. The remainder is raised by the Board of Directors and includes grants from the Town of Kent, Housatonic-Shepaug United Way (member agency status), donations from civic organizations, numerous individual contributions and proceeds from a number of fund raising events. Our scholarship fund continues to provide full and partial scholarships to families facing difficult economic times. The 2006-2007 year assisted families with over \$10,000.00 in scholarships and subsidies.

The Children's Center has provided single and dual career families a practical childcare solution in a small town setting. For 31 years our program has been another reason families have found Kent to be a special town in which to live

We hope you will continue to support the Kent Children's Center and its numerous educational programs.

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