

The Phyllis Bodel Childcare Center at Yale School of Medicine, Inc.
2010, Annual Report

Overview of Events

The heart of any childcare center is its staff. They are the ones who daily interact with parents and children and who implement the philosophy of the Center. In reviewing the year, the most overriding factor was the changes in staff. This year staff retired, had to leave because of illness, moved out of state, and made life decisions that affected their ability to work at the Center. These changes had their impact, however, we learned about resiliency and grew as a Center with the addition of new and equally talented staff members.

The Infant Program:

Currently the Center has three infant rooms and the ability to care for 23 infants. In our program, the emphasis is on social development and, when dealing with the variety of ages within an infant space, there can be challenges in planning curriculum. The teachers are aware and responsive to the changing needs of the infants and plan creatively activities that meet each child's needs.

The Toddler Program:

Toddlers are full of energy, exuberance and curiosity. Our teachers know this, plan for these changing behaviors, and support their need for autonomy and independence. Our toddler spaces, both Toddler 1 and Toddler 2 totaling twenty-two children, meet the individual needs of the children and ensure that this year of development is a happy one for the children. Parents are encouraged to review the posted lesson plans to see how much planning goes into each day and to attend the parent teacher conferences in October and March to review with your child's teacher their child's development and the individuality of the plans for each child.

The Pre-School:

We have four pre-school classrooms. There are two three year old rooms and two four year old rooms totaling forty children. Each room reflects the style and character of the staff and children in those rooms. Our curriculum is driven by the children's interests expressed in the classroom and the plans are based on the Standards of the Connecticut Pre-School Framework. Within each Standard are benchmarks that the teachers use for planning for individual children. During the parent teacher conferences in October and March the teachers have the opportunity to share with parents the individual plans for each child and the emerging and mastered skills that have been observed during the year.

The Kindergarten Program:

We are about to start the seventh year of the Kindergarten. The curriculum this year has been significantly supported by the availability of the Yale Handicap Van for the transportation of the children to a variety of locations. In addition, the learning experiences provided by the Kindergarten with two certified teachers and only ten children provides an opportunity for children to learn about the world, themselves and to feel safe in asking how and why. Our kindergarten continues to be highly respected in the community and was highly commended for developmental appropriateness by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This year we said goodbye to Susie Gravel, one of the kindergarten teachers for the last five years as she retired. We welcomed Amanda Evans to her position.

Board of Director's:

Lisa Suter has completed her fourth and final year as Board President. Her youngest child will graduate our program this year. On behalf of the Board, Staff and Center Lisa deserves all our thanks and appreciation for the work she had done.

Linda Arnold has been our Vice President, Mayur Desai the Secretary and Nancy Scanlon is Treasurer.

Parent Board Members this past year are: Susan Busch, Patty Seo-Mayer and Erica Herzog, Hanna Stevens, Kathryn Henderson and Vincent Pieribone. Leaving the Board this year are Linda Arnold and Patty Seo-Mayer

Faculty Board Members:

The Board consists of six faculty Board members. Many have been on the Board for over sixteen years. We are very fortunate to have their dedication and history. They are:

Merle Waxman, Susan Baserga, Caren Gundberg, Nancy Close, Daniel Biemesderfer, and Michael Caplan. Leaving the Board this year will be Caren Gundberg and Michael Caplan.

Board Committees: (The Director sits on all committees)

The Finance Committee: This committee is chaired by the Treasurer. Members include the Director and the Board President who participates in Scholarship decisions. This committee sets the budget, tuition and scholarship.

The Personnel Committee: The members of the Personnel Committee are Nancy Scanlon Chair, (Personnel and Finances are very much connected), Nancy Close, our Education Consultant, Hanna Stevens parent and representative from Yale Child Study Center and Kathryn Henderson and Erica Herzog, Board Members and parents.

The Health and Safety Committee: Linda Arnold and Patty Seo- Mayer co-chair this committee. Members include Kim Sandor our Health Consultant and the Director. This year we focused on smoking in the area surrounding the Center and were able to get appropriate signage to move the smokers. We have also been able to enlist the aid of the University Police to help in this area and we are waiting on no smoking signs at the Bus Stop. The Medical School is also working on making the entire complex non- smoking. Though slow moving, the effort to stop smoking in this area is going forward.

Long Range Planning: Our Board President, Lisa Suter is chair of this committee. With all the changes in staffing and departments and priorities within the University, many of the goals of this committee have been put on hold. Optimism remains for the coming year to begin to look at the goals for the Bodel Center.

Consultants:

Educational Consultant: Dr. Nancy Close is our Consultant. Dr. Close is a long standing board member and past parent. We are fortunate to have her as a consultant.

Pediatric Consultant: Dr. Joseph Avni Singer is our Pediatric Consultant. Joe has been our consultant for over seventeen years. Though he can no longer make weekly visits, he is only a phone call away and very responsive to the needs of the Center.

Nurse Consultant: Kim Sandor, FNP, is our nurse consultant. Kim is here over nine hours a week and oversees the health records of the children and staff. She does the medication administration training and epi –pen training for the staff and has rewritten the forms for health care plans and topical medications. She sits on the Health and Safety committee and contributes

to our website. We are so fortunate to have Kim on sight every week and appreciate the support of the University and the School of Nursing in supporting this important and necessary position at our Center.

Psychiatric Consultant: Dr. Brian Keyes has been our psychiatric consultant for over fourteen years. Brian is on site one to two times a month and available by phone anytime. Brian provides us with strategies, guidance and perspective and his consistency over the past years is a tremendous asset to the center and the children.

Dental Consultant: Dr. Donald Kohn is our dental consultant. He and his staff are available for bumps that may involve the children's teeth and his staff come each February during National Dental Health Month to talk with the pre-schoolers.

Social Work Consultant: Miriam Berkman, former Bodel parent, is our social work consultant. We are very fortunate to have a social work consultant who knows our parents and teachers and can be such a valuable resource.

Yale Child Study Center: We are fortunate to be located next to such a renowned center for children. They are a resource for us.

Yale School of Medicine: The School of Medicine is very supportive of their childcare center. We are very grateful to Dean Alpern, Cynthia Walker, George Zdru and all the staff at Facilities. We want to thank Richard Levine, Ray Mirando, Ernie DeSalvo, Bill Fiandello, Scott Goeben and Nathan Reynolds. In addition we want to thank Steve Sennet, Steve Murdzia, Yale Security, Jeff and Larry the carpenters and Barbara our locksmith. We thank Phil and Donna in security and Lenny and his staff for our Hayrides and the Kindergarten garden and the maintenance of all our sandboxes and play spaces. We thank the plumbers and painters and electricians. We thank Ron, Mitzi and Monea in Dispatch. There are so many who each day who work to help us maintain a healthy and safe environment .

Our Part-time Staff: We are so fortunate to have consistent part time staff, several of whom have been here ten years. We thank Roberta Hall, Gloria Sanchez, Diana Santaella and Roberta Lapidés We want to thank our college students , Patryce Murphy, Melanie Kopjanski and Avital Sokolow-Silverman.

Administrative Staff: This coming year we are very appreciative of the support of our Bookkeeper Mary Vendetta. We have hired Michelle Benivenga to help with the administration of the Center. The office support in a Center of this size will be very helpful and the hope is that the communication and paper work necessary for the operation of our program will be consistent and accurate.

Director's Report:

The primary goal of the past year and for so many previous years has been to increase communication with our parents. We have started a website, moved notices to email as well as electronically delivering our monthly newsletter (which is bulleted to ease reading for our parents). We post notices on the entry doors and within the classrooms and teachers verbally remind regarding events. There is no other way that we can share necessary information. There is just always going to be a percentage of our parents who will not be aware of closings, scholarships and events due to not taking advantage of the variety of mediums by which we share the workings of the Center.

The Second Goal from last year was to increase the use of technology within the Center. We had hoped to take advantage of the program the Center uses that would have allowed us to become our own 'bank' and collect tuition without using FACTS. Due to staff changes within the office that could not happen but we remain optimistic that in the future we will be able to move in that direction.

The Third Goal of solidifying our pre-school curriculum regarding the Connecticut Pre-school Assessment Frame work was completely met. The teachers worked very hard this year to design and implement appropriate paperwork and to align their observations with the Parent Teacher Conference form and the requirements of our accrediting agency, The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Goals and Conclusion:

This coming year our major goal will be to begin the work for our second round of Accreditation by NAEYC. This time we have at least one year to prepare and we are familiar with the process and already have the majority of criteria in place. During the first round we were under massive construction of our space and the floors above us and only had 8 months with in which to learn about the process, design all the materials and submit a complicated final project. Though we will be busy, it will be significantly less stressful than three years ago.

Our second goal has to do with fundraising. This year we gave out almost \$50,000.00 in Scholarship and Grant support. (Many do not realize that even when a family is on the School Readiness Grant only part of the tuition is covered by the Grant and the balance is covered by the Center). With the help of our able Fundraising Chairperson, Vincent Pieribone, the committee raised over \$12,000 between his fundraising letter and the annual Raffle held in April. Fundraising not only supports families in financial need but also helps all the families by keeping down the tuition costs. Parents are expected to participate in fundraising events sponsored by the Center. The Goal is to have an active Fundraising Committee and to work with our families to find creative, useful and without hardship, fundraising events that will increase our Scholarship Fund.

Our Final goal is increase parent participation in the Center. This year I am thrilled to say we have had great parental support for Board Membership. Though not all who wish to be on the Board can take on a leadership role, all parents can be members and we hope to have active committee's this year. Health and Safety, Staff Development, Fund raising, and Long Range Planning are just a few that parents have already expressed interest in joining. This is so exciting and such a positive experience for the Center.

October 15th will mark the 31st year of the Phyllis Bodel Childcare Center. The teachers and I thank all our parents for sharing their wonderful children with us each day and trusting us with their care. For our parents who will be graduating, some after 8+ years at the Center, we send you off to the 'big' schools with our best wishes and fondest memories of your children.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia H. Olson

