

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS...

Old Lyme Children's Learning Center Going Strong!

By Gail Stevens and Old Lyme Children's Learning Center

The Old Lyme Children's Learning Center, Inc., established in 1987, is the culmination of many years of work by residents of the Lyme/Old Lyme community—shaped by the vision of the late Mrs. Connie Pike, a generous donor, visionary and supporter of the Center.

The Old Lyme Children's Learning Center (OLCLC) believes that children are our future fostering the opportunity to grow, explore, and discover during pre-school years that build the strong foundation and springboard to success through later school years. Guided by the accreditation standard of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the Center's programs serve to promote the development of children as creative individuals and as members of small groups. Daily activities and experiences provided enhance each child's sense of self-esteem and skill mastery. Their goal is to provide a secure, safe and happy environment that fosters natural development of the whole child, which includes socio-emotional, cognitive, language and small and large motor skills.

Speaking from experience as both a parent of a child from their 2006 graduating class—and on the board of the Center for over 6 years—experience can only attest to the incredible early education experience provided by them. A foundation of early childhood experience was provided second to none. From the minute of first day drop off—the last day before kindergarten and elementary years—parents can remain certain that they are in the best of hands not only from the developmental and educational level but from the emotional standpoint as well. Each year provides a solid step to the next year of developmental growth with their programs. Additional, experiences with nature, music and the creative arts provides a well-rounded program.

One only needs to meet the OLCLC Director, Alison Zanardi to understand why this center continues to blossom every year—remaining ahead of the

learning curves and age appropriate educational standards. Alison, herself a visionary, has a penchant for early education and so loves her kids. This devotion to the center shows up at every level under her guidance. From the administration, her educators and students—they all exude this warmth and love handed down the line.

The Old Lyme Children's Learning Center is a non-profit 501©(3) organization governed by a charter, and an 8 member Board of Directors. President of the Board, is former Old Lyme Middle School educator, Kristen St. Germain—resident of Old Lyme with her family and now Principal of Wheeler High School. Under her governance—The Old Lyme Learning Center continues to make their late founder, Connie Pike proud year after year watching over the center as a vital part of our educational community. For more information, www.olclc.com or call 860-434-1728.

