

Vernon -
as requested.



MELANNE VERVEER
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE FIRST LADY

THE WHITE HOUSE

(202) 456-6266

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 13, 1998

Dawn Zimmerman
Child Development Center of the Hamptons
44 Meadows Way
East Hampton, NY 11937

Dear Ms. Zimmerman:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you for your kind letter inviting her to narrate your theatrical version of Where the Wild Things Are for the benefit of the Child Development Center of the Hamptons on August 2. Mrs. Clinton is a big fan of Maurice Sendak and his creative work. She was privileged to do an event with him last year in Washington to promote reading to very young children to stimulate early learning and development.

Regrettably, the First Lady's schedule will not permit her to join you. However, she wishes the Center a very successful event.

Best wishes to you in your important work.

Sincerely,

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

cc: Vernon Jordan

VERNON E. JORDAN, JR.

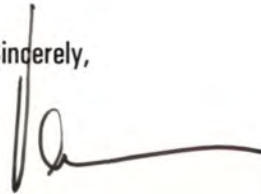
July 9, 1998

Dear Melanne:

The attached is self-explanatory and I doubt that it is something the First Lady either wants or needs to do. In any event, would you be kind enough to quickly dispatch a letter to Ms. Zimmerman with a copy to me. Sorry to bother you with this, but I am being pushed by a couple of my partners.

Warm personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "V. Jordan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President &
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
2nd Floor, West Wing
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 13, 1998

Dawn Zimmerman
Child Development Center of the Hamptons
44 Meadows Way
East Hampton, NY 11937

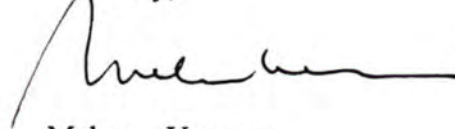
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Best wishes to you in your important work.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

cc: Vernon Jordan

W I L D T H I N G

A Benefit for the Child Development Center of the Hamptons A School for Children with Disabilities

Sen. Joseph Bruno
Benefit Chair

Chris & Jeannie Lawford
Performance Chairs

Kris Liam
Auction Chair

Benefit Committee

Sam Alfstad
Betsy Cameron
Kimberly Goff
Elaine Grove
Naomi Lazard
Jen LeRoy
Kate Mailer
Helene Miller
Marsha Norman
Aidan Quinn
Maria Passino Rothwell
Mary Spitzer
Philip Spitzer
Katherine Wallach
Tony Walton
Patty Watt

*Committee in formation. List
complete as of 5/18/98.*

June 10, 1998

Mrs. Hillary Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Narrating Maurice Sendak's *WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE*

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

On Sunday, August 2, 1998, the Child Development Center of the Hamptons (CDCH) will hold a major fund raising event - *Wild Thing* - at the estate of Kay LeRoy in Amagansett.

Maurice Sendak has generously granted us permission to adapt his classic children's book, *Where the Wild Things Are*, into a play featuring challenged children from our school, non-challenged children from the community, as well as several celebrity cameos. This performance will be the centerpiece of the event.

I understand that you will be in the Hamptons on August 2nd, is there any chance you might be willing to introduce or narrate the performance?

CDCH is a not-for-profit school serving children of the East End who are challenged with disabilities such as Down's syndrome, autism, and cerebral palsy. The program has been celebrated for its arts-based curriculum, and programs that integrate special needs children with non-challenged children. It also fills a gap that was created last June when budget cuts forced the closing of the local BOCES pre-school program. Our school operates 12 months a year, so we invite you to stop by while you're in town.

Funds generated by this event will help ensure that we will be able to continue providing vital services to our special needs students for another year.

Enclosed please find an event overview. Although we don't wish to rush a decision, it would be greatly appreciated if you could give us a response by June 25th.

Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions. I may be reached at (516) 267-0133.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Best regards,

Dawn Zimmerman
Founder & Executive Director

W I L D T H I N G

A Benefit for the Child Development Center of the Hamptons A School for Children with Disabilities

DATE: **Sunday, August 2, 1998**

PLACE: **The LeRoy Estate, Amagansett, NY**

3:30-5:00: **Beast Feast**
hors d'oeuvres courtesy of basilico
BBQ courtesy of Peconic Coast

Children's Activities
Stilt Ballet, Musicians, Mural Drawing, Etc.
Drumming Exhibition by The Ross School Boys
Petting Zoo courtesy of The Art Farm

5:00-5:45: performance of

Maurice Sendak's
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE
starring
Students of the Child Development Center of the Hamptons
& Children from the Hamptons' Community
with special celebrity appearances by [5 NAMES TO COME]

Script Adaptation	Music & Lyrics	Musical Arrangements
Bridget LeRoy	Randy Freed	Dean Cama

Choreography	Sets
Mary Ponsini	John Hallstein & Joe DeTullio

Directed By
Jacqui Leader

5:45: **Auction of one-of-a-kind *Wild Thing* Masks**

6:00: **Wild Rumors**
dessert & coffee courtesy of Art of Eating
dancing to the sounds of [NAME OF BAND TO COME]

Permission to use *Where the Wild Things Are* has been generously granted
by **Maurice Sendak**.

Promotional support of this event has been provided by Lifetime Television.

Child Development Center of the Hamptons

44 Meadow Way, East Hampton, New York 11937

(516) 324-3229 • (516) 267-0133

As the mother of an autistic son, I know how it feels to have your child shipped out of your town every day and find that your neighbors, shop keepers, firemen, police officers and all the people who make up a community not even know who your child is. He can grow up isolated from the community and from his peers. My son Jon is the driving force in my life and being his parent has made me want to help other families who have children with special needs.

Until the Child Development Center of the Hamptons opened on September 3, 1997, preschool children with disabilities on the East End of Long Island had very few options but to be bussed out of their home communities and commute up to, and sometimes more than, three hours a day, especially in the summer months.

As CDCH moved forward with long term plans to create a school for special needs children from birth to 21 years of age, we found ourselves faced with the crisis of the termination of the BOCES preschool program in West Hampton. It became necessary to address the immediate need; open sooner and start with a preschool program.

With the support of private donations, we were able to lease 4 classrooms from Most Holy Trinity Center in East Hampton. We are a non-profit special education preschool open to the public and approved by the New York State Education Department. We began with a half day program and in February 1998, were approved for a full day program (*no small achievement!*).

We opened with 14 students and by the Spring of 1998, the number of children receiving services had increased to 58. By placing a strong emphasis on teaching through the creative arts, we provide these children with the tools to learn, the courage to achieve and the confidence to reach their potential.

We have clearly established how great the need for this program is in this area. We write to you in the hopes that you will support CDCH. The town of East Hampton has generously donated 8 acres of land for the future site of the Child Development Center of the Hamptons we currently face many daily challenges in insuring that we remain here for the kids who have come to depend on us.

It is my dream to continue to give these special children the dignity they deserve and instill in them the knowledge that they too, are cherished members of our community. I hope you will join me in realizing this dream.

**Dawn Zimmerman
Founder and Executive Director**

W I L D T H I N G

**A Benefit for the Child Development Center of the Hamptons
A School for Children with Disabilities**

HOW YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT *WILD THING*

UNDERWRITER: \$10,000 Contribution
Acknowledgment on Invitations and in Printed Program.
10 tickets to the event. Reserved table.

SPONSOR: \$5,000 Contribution
Acknowledgment on Invitations and in Printed Program.
4 tickets to the event. Reserved seats.

SUPPORTER: \$1,000 Contribution
Acknowledgment on Invitations and in Printed Program.

FRIEND: \$500 Contribution
Acknowledgment on Invitations and in Printed Program.

TICKETS

PATRON: \$500 per adult
ADULT: \$150 per adult
CHILD: \$ 35 per child

**DESSERT &
PERFORMANCE
ONLY:** \$65 per adult
\$25 per child

IN-KIND SUPPORT: All in-kind support will be acknowledged on Invitations and in the Printed Program. Items needed include:
Invitation and/or Program printing
Liquor/Wine
Gift Bag Items
Sound System/Lighting System
Fabric (for costumes)
Lumber/Hardware (for sets)

For more information on this event, or to make a pledge of support, please contact:

**Michael Kennedy
Event Coordinator**

(212) 426-3886 or (516) 329-3839

Michael Weiss

Event Coordinator

(212) 582-6690

THE EAST HAMPTON INDEPENDENT

CDCH Overview

By KITT MERRILL

Dawn Zimmerman, director of the Child Development Center of the Hamptons in Aquinasset, gave the Town Board an overview of the center's program during yesterday's "brown bag" work session. Zimmerman was before the board seeking to lease four lots in the Town Industrial Park in Westcott for a new facility. A pledge of \$500,000 from Russian magnate Ron Perelman of Singsenack, she revealed, will create a solid jumping-off point for the fundraising that Zimmerman hopes will underwrite the \$5 million project.

"Since the summer of 1996, we've accomplished a lot," Zimmerman began. At that time BOCES chose to cancel its preschool program for disabled children. The director opened a small school housed in the Most Holy Trinity school building "to take care of the immediate need." She "fought hard for approval" from the State Department of Education "and was granted the right to operate a half-day program." Because of the importance of disabled children receiving a full-day program, Zimmer-

man offered an afternoon enrichment program on a tuition basis.

In February 1997, the center was awarded full-day approval. Upon receiving better funding from the state "we knew we'd be successful," the director made clear, adding, "It was time to move ahead with the total vision of the school." That vision includes the new facility as well as expanding services to students beyond the preschool years.

Dr. Steve Stellan, clinical director for CDCH, detailed that since its inception the center has grown to employ a staff of 22 providing services for 58 students. Twenty-five children attend pre-K at Most Holy Trinity while 28 special-needs children receive services outside the school. Seven of the students at the current center are in "regular" education. Dr. Stellan told the board that while the typical rate for students entering regular kindergarten after a BOCES-type program is 20 percent, CDCH's rate is double that: "We're very proud of that." Additionally, of the current non-professional staff, a number

of the employees have chosen to enter college programs to enhance their skills.

"Wonderful Thing"

Zimmerman told the board that she wants to expand the services offered to include special-needs children from age five to 21 because "we have children aging out of preschool who have to go on the bus to BOCES [in Westhampton

Beach]." The director supplied the board with letters from local school districts in support of the program. "They don't want to see our kids leaving the area," Zimmerman emphasized, pointing out that each district must pay \$20,000 per child for transportation alone.

Attorney George Blondo accompanied Zimmerman to the brown bag. In support of the town's executing a lease agreement with CDCH, he characterized the facility as "a wonderful thing that's desperately needed." Urging the board members to visit the center, he described the experience of meeting the children there as having a "direct, immediate, visceral impact." Praising Zimmerman's efforts so far, the attorney added that the students "have enormous problems and yet they thrive."

Councilman Peter Hammarie reassured that while there has been "an amount of pressure" concerning lots in the Industrial Park, "Those lots are off the table for consideration for anybody else." He wondered if there was a "phase-in, fall-back" plan for the ambitious undertaking. Zimmerman responded, "We're going for the whole lot and knoboodle," enumerating plans for a summer camp, a research center, and a possible venue for the Special Olympics.

One fundraising effort planned toward that end is scheduled for this summer. The center has procured permission to mount a performance of Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are* on August 2.

June 10, 1998



Child Development Center of the Hamptons

Dawn Zimmerman
Executive Director

136 Main Street, P.O. Box 7115, Amagansett NY 11930
(516) 267-0133 • Fax: (516) 267-0131



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Dawn Zimmerman
Executive Director

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(516) 267-0133 • Fax: (516) 267-0131



*Helen -
with
warmest
regards*

MELANNE VERVEER
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE FIRST LADY

THE WHITE HOUSE

(202) 456-6266

Mrs. Helen Luxman
D.B.E. (HON.)

52 2nd Avenue
Illovo
2196 Sandton
South Africa

Tel & Fax:
(011) 788-2833



PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Clinton Library Transfer Form

Case #, if applicable		Accession #		
Collection/Record Group	Clinton Presidential Records	Series/Staff Name	Verveer, Melanne	
Subgroup/Office of Origin	First Lady's Office	Subseries		
Folder Title	Melanne Verveer's Mail - 1998 - Z	OA Number	04385	Box Number 3
Description of Item(s)	3 black and white personal photos with HRC in them 19385			

Donor Information

Last Name:		First Name:		Middle Name:		Title:	
Affiliation:		Phone (Wk):		Phone (Hm):			
Street:		City:		State (or Country):		Zip:	

Transferred to:	Audio/Visual Department
Other (Specify):	

Transferred by:	Cary Moriarty
Transfer Point	

Date of Tranfer	2/14/2014
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Child Development Center of the Hamptons

136 Main Street, P.O. Box 7115, Amagansett NY 11930 • (516) 267-0133 • Fax: (516) 267-0131

Children on the East End of Long Island who are challenged by handicaps such as Down's Syndrome, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, and emotional problems have been traveling up to three hours daily for services. The Child Development Center of the Hamptons now offers these special children a program in their home community. The school opened on September 3, 1997 in four leased classrooms at the Most Holy Trinity Center in East Hampton.

The Child Development Center of the Hamptons is a private, non-profit school open to the public and approved by the New York State Department of Education. We began with a half day program but just last week were approved for a full day program-no small achievement!

We opened with 14 students and quickly grew to 28, with 10 more students referred for the fall. **By placing a strong emphasis on teaching through the creative arts, we provide these children with the tools to learn, the courage to achieve and the confidence to reach their potential.**

We have clearly established how great the need for this program is in this area. **We write to you in the hopes that you will support CDCH.** The town of East Hampton has generously donated 8 acres of land for the future site of the Child Development Center of the Hamptons. This will allow the program to expand to provide children ages 3-21 with the services and education that they need. We currently face many daily challenges in insuring that we remain here for the kids who have come to depend on us.

It is my dream to continue to give these special children the dignity they deserve and instill in them the knowledge that they too, are cherished members of our community. I hope that you will join me in realizing this dream.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dawn Zimmerman
Executive Director

For immediate release
Contact: Dawn Zimmerman @
(516) 267-0133 or
fax# (516)267-0131

FOLIO AWARDS HONOR 'THE LITTLE SCHOOL THAT COULD'

On Friday, May 1st, CBS won a FOLIO AWARD for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism for their story on the **Child Development Center of the Hamptons**, a new school for special needs and disabled children on the East End of Long Island. The FOLIO'S Keynote speaker, **Peter Jennings** praised the school's Executive Director, **Dawn Zimmerman** for her dedication to such an important issue.

While **Ron Perelman** has pledged \$500,000 towards the school's building fund, CDCH currently operates from a church building in East Hampton, with 29 students -- twice the number of students the school opened with this past September. Also last week, **Kay LeRoy** offered her Amagansett estate for the Child Development Center's summer event, a benefit performance on Saturday, August 1st of **Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*** followed by a ***Beast Feast*** to be catered by **Art of Eating**. So far, this is the little school that can.

For more information about the Child Development Center of the Hampton, contact Dawn Zimmerman at (516)267-0133. For more information about the CDCH benefit performance of ***Where the Wild Things Are***, contact Michaela Kennedy at (212)426-3886 or (516)329-3839.





Child Development Center

of the Hamptons

***CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
OF THE HAMPTONS***

A Special Education School

136 Main Street
P.O. Box 7115
Amagansett, NY 11930
(516) 267-0133
(516) 267-0131 Fax

Board of Directors

Administrative Board Members

Dawn Zimmerman, Executive Director
Florence Kelson, Ph.D., Educational Director
Stephen Sicilian, Ph.D., Clinical Director

Additional Board Members

George Aman, Ph.D., Superintendent, Amagansett Schools
George Biondo, Esq., Legal Advisor
Thomas Connors, Financial Advisor
Gail Schonfeld, M.D., Pediatrician

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER OF THE HAMPTONS

RESPONDS TO A COMMUNITY NEED

Children on the East End of Long Island who are challenged by handicaps such as Down Syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy and emotional problems must travel up to three hours daily to Westhampton Beach to attend school.

These children, ranging from three to twenty-one years of age, are sent out of their home communities every day, twelve months a year. Families have found this situation extremely difficult to accept. However, until now it has been their only option.

Over the past year, a highly motivated group of parents and professionals has worked together to address this need and create the *Child Development Center of the Hamptons* — a private, non-profit, special education school open to the general public.

VISION / MISSION

The Child Development Center of the Hamptons ("C.D.C.H.") is a private, non-profit educational setting licensed by the State of New York to provide developmental services to the children of the east end of Long Island. Our vision is to develop models of service provision which will offer a variety of services in multiple settings to children from birth to 21 years of age. These services will be easily accessible in a centrally located facility as well as community-based day care facilities and family homes. Children with and without disabilities will be served together whenever clinically appropriate, in a manner which encourages awareness, acceptance, and empathy in all involved. Community interest will be created at every step integrating students with the community residents and community residents with the students. Younger children will participate in community activities, meet local craftsmen and shopowners. Older children will participate in work-study programs at local businesses. The community will be invited to attend activities at the center and join in its growth. The C.D.C.H. will serve as a research and teaching institution with affiliations to local university and medical facilities allowing for new creative intervention methods through grant-funded projects and training of future professionals.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER OF THE HAMPTONS

PROGRAM FEATURES

The *Child Development Center of the Hamptons* is an innovative educational program designed to meet the needs of families and children in our community. Key features of the Center include:

- **Types of services:** A curriculum is designed for each child in:
 - education
 - special education
 - speech/language therapy
 - occupational therapy
 - physical therapy
 - psychological services
 - social work services
- **Specialized evaluation/early intervention:** The Center will not only provide services to school age children, but will also provide early intervention, evaluation and treatment services. Infants and toddlers will have the opportunity to work with appropriately trained personnel at home or in daycare settings. Conducting evaluations in a familiar environment encourages positive outcomes in child development.
- **Externships:** Local high school and college students will participate in Center activities through externship placements.
- **Integration of students:** Public school participation will bring together children of different needs and abilities to enjoy the experience of working and playing side by side.
- **Parent involvement:** The Center will hold open forum meetings in which staff and parents will share ideas, experiences and future goals for these exceptional children.
- **Additional services:** The Center will also be:
 - available for evaluations to surrounding school districts
 - open for afterschool services including occupational and speech therapy, etc.
 - conducting parent training programs
 - providing a summer camp for all children

Through these specially-designed programs, the *Child Development Center of the Hamptons* will give children the tools to learn and the confidence to achieve their potential.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER OF THE HAMPTONS ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- ~ Chartered by the Board of Regents of the New York State Department of Education
- ~ Granted tax exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service
- ~ Approved by the New York State Department of Health to provide services to children
- ~ Enthusiastically supported by all fifteen local school districts
- ~ Endorsed by U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato, Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno, State Senator Kenneth P. LaValle, Congressman Michael Forbes, Assemblyman Fred Thiele, the East Hampton Disabilities Board, the East Hampton Business Alliance, parents, physicians and other local organizations
- ~ Approved by the East Hampton Town Board to receive a long-term, low cost lease on eight acres of centrally located town owned land on which to build our school. This generosity reflects the town's recognition of the desperate need for services to children with special needs
- ~ Leased an interim site at the school of the Most Holy Trinity Center in the Village of East Hampton to start an infant/toddler and preschool program
- ~ Opened school in September of 1997 with fourteen students which has now grown to twenty seven students
- ~ Implemented a full range of creative arts therapies for our enrichment program
- ~ Received the Long Island Coalition for Fair Broadcasting's 1998 FOLIO Award in the education category for CBS's story on the Child Development Center of the Hamptons, October 1997
- ~ Mr. Ron Perelman has pledged \$500,00 toward the building fund

THE NEXT STEP: LOOKING FORWARD

We are now fully approved by the state and county offices of special education and moving forward with our plans expand the program by building a new school so that children ages 5-21 can be educated and receive services in our own community

At this time, the Child Development Center of the Hamptons is seeking the funds needed to realize these projects. We must continue to support the ongoing financial needs of operating the school and financing the construction of our facility.



CATHERINE L. LESTER
SUPERVISOR

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

159 Pantigo Road
East Hampton, New York 11937

August 23, 1996

Tel: (516) 324-4111
Fax: (516) 324-2777

Dawn K. Zimmerman
Child Development Center of the Hamptons
P.O. Box 1666
Amagansett, N. Y. 11930

Re: Letter of Intent

Dear Ms. Zimmerman:

Thank you for your presentation to the East Hampton Town Board on July 23, 1996 regarding the mission and the proposed activities of the Child Development Center of the Hamptons (the "Center"). Your desire to provide special education services at a facility within the Town of East Hampton was very favorably received.

The Town Board members recognize the critical need for a pre-school special education program to be located on Eastern Long Island. Usage of the current option, the BOCES program in Westhampton, New York, results in our children who are 3, 4 and 5 years old traveling a minimum of one hour on a bus (one way) to attend appropriate educational programs. This amount of travel can be a burden on anyone, but particularly on such young children with special needs and the parents who watch on a daily basis as their children are whisked away from their home town.

The Town Board is also very pleased to learn that the Center anticipates, in the long term, serving the needs of our area's special children up to the age of 21. As you explained, the first phase would consist of providing services to children ranging from infancy through the 6th grade. The second phase would provide services to the older children. Providing these special services on an open, nondiscriminatory basis will be of tremendous help to the families of these children.

Also, a big advantage to having these services provided within the Town of East Hampton is that parents and local school officials will have an increased opportunity to be involved in the planned activities of these children. It is much easier to stop by a classroom which is located 10 minutes from home or work than to stop by a classroom which is located an hour away.

At our meeting, you expressed an interest in building a facility to house the Center on a parcel at the Town's Industrial Park. As you may know, approximately five years ago, the Town entered into a long-term lease of property at the Town Industrial

August 23, 1996

Park with the nonprofit corporation A Program Planned for Life Enrichment ("APPLE"). APPLE provides long-term live-in substance abuse counselling services. The Town is very pleased to have been able to provide a low cost, long-term lease to APPLE and thereby help the citizens of our Town.

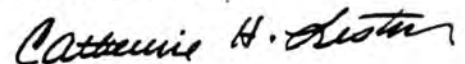
Similarly, the Town Board members are very interested in having the Center build a facility at the Town Industrial Park and provide vital services to children in our Town. While the proper time to negotiate the details of a lease of Industrial Park property would be when you have raised the necessary funds for the construction of the facility, the Town Board anticipates that a long term, low cost lease similar to APPLE's could be offered by the Town to the Center.

The Town Board wholeheartedly endorses your endeavor and encourages you to use this letter expressing the Town's interest and support for siting the facility at the Town Industrial Park when you are seeking funds for your project. Also enclosed for your use and information is Resolution # 856, adopted by the Town Board on August 23, 1996.

On behalf of the Town Board, I wish you well in your endeavors to raise construction funds and bring much needed educational services to the Town of East Hampton.

With warm personal regards.

Sincerely,



Catherine H. Lester
Supervisor

cc: Town Board
Town Attorney
Town Budget Officer
Town Coordinator of Human Services
Town Director of Youth Services

CHL/bc

Resolution # 856
August 23, 1996

The following resolution was introduced by Supervisor Catherine Lester, seconded by Councilman P. Hammerle and adopted:

WHEREAS, the Child Development Center of the Hamptons (the "Center") is a non-profit educational corporation licensed by the State of New York and open to the public to provide developmental services to children with disabilities residing on the East End of Long Island; and

WHEREAS, the services provided by the Center include education, special education, speech-language, occupational/physical therapy and psychology/social work; and

WHEREAS, a preschool special education program based at a facility within the Town of East Hampton would greatly assist the Town's three to five year old children who currently travel a minimum of one hour on a bus (one way) to attend appropriate programs at the BOCES facility in Westhampton; and

WHEREAS, the Center also wishes in the future to provide educational services for older children up to 21 years of age, which would be a great benefit to Town residents; and

WHEREAS, the Center is currently raising funds to construct a facility within the Town of East Hampton which could provide services to preschool age children and older children; and

WHEREAS, the Center has approached the Town Board about siting the facility on property at the Town Industrial Park; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to indicate its support for the Center and its programs and its interest in leasing property at the Town Industrial Park to the Center if and when the Center raises the funds necessary for the construction of the new facility; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to sign a letter of support addressed to the Center which addresses the issues set forth above; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Town Attorney, the Town Budget Officer, the Town Coordinator of Human Services, and to Dawn Zimmerman, Child Development Center of the Hamptons, Box 1666, Amagansett, New York 11930.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER OF THE HAMPTONS
PROVISIONAL CHARTER

This Instrument Witnesseth That the Board of Regents for and on behalf of the Education Department of the State of New York at their meeting of June 14, 1996.

Voted, that

1. A provisional charter valid for a term of two years is granted incorporating George Aman, Thomas Connors, Florence Kelson, Robert J. Savage, Gail Schonfeld, Stephen Sicilian, Dawn Zimmerman and their associates and successors as an education corporation under the corporate name of Child Development Center of the Hamptons, located in East Hampton, county of Suffolk, state of New York.
2. The purpose for which such corporation is formed is to operate a preschool for children with and without developmental delays and/or behavioral difficulties from three to five years of age, a kindergarten for five-year-olds with and without developmental delays and/or behavioral difficulties and a grade one through eight elementary school for children with and without developmental delays and/or behavioral difficulties, provided that nothing in this charter shall be deemed to constitute approval for State funding for programs and services under the jurisdiction of the Office for Special Education Services (OSES).
3. The persons named as incorporators shall constitute the first board of trustees. The board shall have power to adopt bylaws, including therein provisions fixing the method of election and the term of office of trustees, and shall have power by vote of two-thirds of all the members of the board of trustees to change the number of trustees to be not more than twenty-five nor less than five.
4. The names and post office addresses of the first trustees are as follows:

George Aman, Ph.D.
P.O. Box 879
Amagansett, New York 11930

Thomas Connors
143 Marine Road, P.O. Box 1666
Amagansett, New York 11930

Florence Kelson, Ph.D.
3 Shorewood Drive
East Hampton, New York 11937

Robert J. Savage, Esq.
288 Pantigo Road
East Hampton, New York 11937

Gail Schonfeld, M.D.
94 Pantigo Road
East Hampton, New York 11937

Stephen Sicilian, Ph.D.
7 Springwood Way
East Hampton, New York 11937

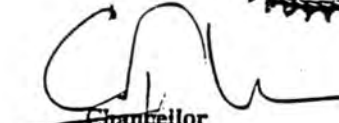
Dawn Zimmerman
143 Marine Road, P.O. Box 1666
Amagansett, New York 11930

5. The corporation hereby created shall be a nonstock corporation organized and operated exclusively for educational purposes, and no part of its earnings or net income shall inure to the benefit of any individual; and no officer, member, or employee of the corporation shall receive or be entitled to receive any pecuniary profit from the operations thereof, except reasonable compensation for services.
6. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).
7. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be devoted to carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation (except to the extent authorized by Internal Revenue Code section 501(h) as amended, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law, during any fiscal year or years in which the corporation has chosen to utilize the benefits authorized by the statutory provision), and the corporation shall not participate in or intervene (including the publishing or distribution of statements) in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.
8. Upon dissolution of the corporation, the board of trustees shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of the remaining assets of the corporation exclusively for one or more exempt purposes, within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future Federal tax code), or shall distribute the same to the Federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by order of the Supreme Court of the State of New York in the judicial district where the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, organized and operated exclusively for such purposes, as said Court shall determine.
9. The principal office of the corporation shall be located at 288 Pantigo Road, East Hampton, New York 11937.
10. The Commissioner of Education is designated as the representative of the corporation upon whom process in any action or proceeding against it may be served.

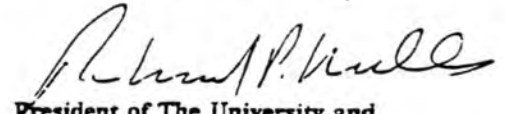
Child Development Center of the Hamptons
Page three

11. Such provisional charter will be made absolute if, within two years after the date when this charter is granted, the corporation shall acquire resources and equipment which are available for its use and support and which are sufficient and suitable for its chartered purposes in the judgment of the Regents of the University, and shall be maintaining an institution of educational usefulness and character satisfactory to the Regents. Prior to the expiration of said two-year period, an application for the extension of such provisional charter or for an absolute charter will be entertained by the Regents, but in the event that such application is not made, then at the expiration of said term of two years, and upon notice by the Regents, such provisional charter shall terminate and become void and shall be surrendered to the Regents.




Chancellor

Granted, June 14, 1996, by the Board of Regents of The University of the State of New York, for and on behalf of the State Education Department, and executed under the seal of said University and recorded as Number 22,112.


President of The University and
Commissioner of Education

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3201

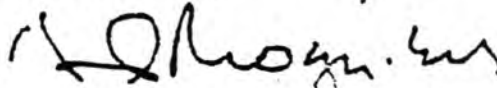
February 3, 1997

Dear Ms. Zimmerman:

I understand you are moving ahead with your efforts to establish the Child Development Center of the Hamptons, and I want you to know you have my full support. The need for such a school in the East End of Long Island is beyond doubt. Your plans would create an excellent one. Children in special education should not have to travel miles and miles to get to school. The Child Development Center would eliminate that problem for many such children.

The proposed elimination of the BOCES Preschool Handicapped Program in June makes your efforts all the more important. Were it not for your interest and foresight, you and many other parents would be starting from zero. I applaud your initiative and I wish you the best in the upcoming crucial months. The Child Development Center is vital for the appropriate education of East End children. I look forward to it becoming a reality.

Sincerely,



Daniel Patrick Moynihan

Ms. Dawn Zimmerman
Child Development Center
Of the Hamptons
136 Main Street
Amagansett, NY 11930

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3202

May 12, 1997

Dawn Zimmerman
Executive Director
Child Development Center of the Hamptons
136 Main Street
P.O. Box 7115
Amagansett, New York 11930

Dear Ms. Zimmerman,

I am delighted to hear of your efforts to establish a special education facility in the Hamptons and offer you my support.

I read in your letter that the Child Development Center of the Hamptons is a private, non-profit, special education school that is open to the public and licensed by the New York State Board of Regents. It seems to have growing support by the school districts in the area as well as the parents of children who may use the services. Allowing these students the opportunity to receive a proper education will enable them to gain a greater degree of independence that may not have been otherwise possible.

This local center would eliminate the two hour round-trip travel time for some of these children who already face a daily struggle. Eliminating long-distance commutes for children will also relieve parents of worry, and allow for more parental involvement in the education of their children.

I applaud your resolve to provide a sound education for children with special needs on the East End of Long Island and wish the Child Development Center of the Hamptons great success.

Sincerely,



Alfonse M. D'Amato
United States Senator



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

KENNETH P. LAVALLE
1ST SENATE DISTRICT
VICE CHAIRMAN, MAJORITY CONFERENCE
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

125 MIDDLE COUNTRY ROAD
SELDEN, NEW YORK 11784

February 28, 1997

Ms. Dawn Zimmerman
Child Development Center of the Hamptons
PO Box 1666
Amagansett, NY 11930

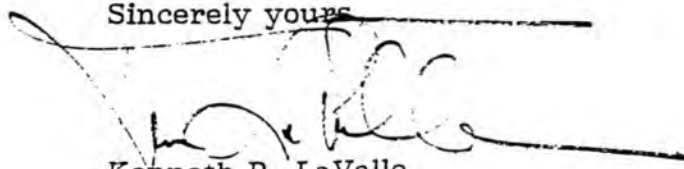
Dear Ms. Zimmerman:

I am pleased to offer my support for the proposed Child Development Center of the Hamptons. As the New York State Senator representing the First Senatorial District, I am well aware of the problems faced by families on the East End in meeting the needs of preschool children with disabilities. Many of these families are forced to seek an appropriate education some thirty to forty miles from home. Your proposed center will allow this vulnerable group of children an opportunity to attend a facility within their own community.

I applaud your dedication and commitment to providing a valuable service to children so in need of our help and support. I wish you much success as you move forward in the certification process. I look forward to working together to ensure that the New York State Department of Education recognizes the need and value of your program. Your enthusiasm and extraordinary efforts on behalf of these young people should be commended. I am confident that through your tireless energy and the hard work of all those individuals who have been involved in the process the Child Development Center of the Hamptons will become a reality.

I wish you continued success in the future.

Sincerely yours



Kenneth P. LaValle
State Senator

KPL:ji

MICHAEL P. FORBES
1ST DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, AND JUDICIARY
FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING,
AND RELATED PROGRAMS

TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, AND GENERAL
GOVERNMENT

INTERNET ADDRESS:
mpforbes@hr.house.gov

WORLDWIDE WEB PAGE:
<http://www.house.gov/forbes/welcome.html>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3201

LOCAL OFFICES:
1500 WILLIAM FLOYD PARKWAY
SHIRLEY, LONG ISLAND, NY 11967
(516) 345-9000

186 WEST MONTAUK HIGHWAY
HAMPTON ATRIUM, SUITE D
HAMPTON BAYS, LONG ISLAND, NY 11946
(516) 723-0017

222 MIDDLE COUNTRY ROAD
SMITHTOWN EXECUTIVE PLAZA, SUITE 107
SMITHTOWN, LONG ISLAND, NY 11787
(516) 724-4600

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
502 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3201
(202) 225-3826

September 12, 1996

Ms. Dawn K. Zimmerman
Child Development Center of the Hamptons
PO Box 1666
Amagansett, NY 11930

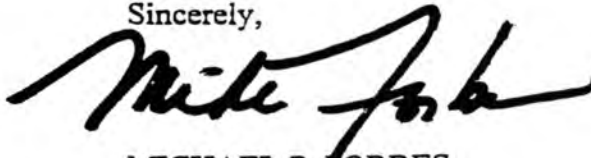
Dear Ms. Zimmerman;

This letter will serve to express my support for the proposed Child Development Center of the Hamptons. The need for a preschool special education program on eastern Long Island is proven and long overdue. There are virtually no other services such as these east of Southampton.

At the present time, children who attend special programs are forced to travel to either Southampton or Westhampton. This is a burden on both the children and their families. Since the number of children with special education needs increases each year, it is necessary to have a program like the Child Development Center of the Hamptons nearby.

I urge the New York State Education Department to approve the application for certification of the Child Development Center of the Hamptons.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL P. FORBES
Member of Congress

MPF:joc



FRED W. THIELE, JR.
Assemblyman 2nd District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Committee on House Operations

COMMITTEES
Agriculture
Environmental Conservation
Election Law

July 16, 1996

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to offer my strong support for the proposal by the Child Development Center of the Hamptons for the creation of a preschool center-based special education program, currently under review by the New York State Department of Education.

As the New York State Assemblyman representing the 2nd Assembly District located on Eastern Long Island, and as a resident of Sag Harbor, I am fully aware of the difficulties present on the East End in accessing special educational services for preschool children with disabilities. These disabilities range from autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy to deafness, blindness and other tragic handicaps. For families to provide these special children with appropriate education and socialization needs, they must make arrangements for their child to attend a facility that may be 30 to 40 miles away. This distance necessitates extended travel for individuals who have more than enough difficulties in dealing with their handicaps on a daily basis without having this added stress.

Additionally, the few facilities located in our area are limited in their ability to accommodate increased enrollment which is foreseen in the future. These programs must strive to provide many services critical to the basic development of these special children and are restricted in offering expanded programs. The result is a growing, underserved population with immediate education, therapy, and socialization needs.

I feel certain that the creation of the Child Development Center on Eastern Long Island would be a major improvement in the provision of services to this underserved population. I strongly urge you to review and approve the application for certification requested by the Child Development Center of the Hamptons and hope that you will feel free to contact me for further information outlining the immediate needs of the Eastern Long Island community.

Sincerely,

Fred W. Thiele, Jr.
Member of Assembly

FT:kk



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS
5 Empire State Plaza
Suite 2836
Albany, New York 12223-1551

John L. Behan
Director

June 25, 1996

Mrs. Dawn Zimmerman
P. O. Box 1666
Amagansett, NY 11980

Dear Mrs. Zimmerman:

I want to commend your efforts – and extend my support – for the establishment of the Child Development Center of the Hamptons to provide assessment and programs for disabled children within our community.

I applaud your commitment and enthusiasm to address and obtain services for pre-school students with special education needs, and I wish you much success in securing approval and certification from the New York State Department of Education.

I regret that my responsibilities to the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs and our veterans community precludes my assuming a more active role in helping you with this important and necessary project in our community.

My personal best wishes.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John L. Behan".

John L. Behan
Director

JLB/HJM/mb



THE HOOK MILL
ONE OF THE EARLY LONG ISLAND MILLS USED
BY EARLY SETTLERS TO GRIND WHEAT CORN
AND OTHER GRAIN BUILT IN 1648 IS STILL
OPERATED, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

VILLAGE OF EAST HAMPTON

Settled 1648-Incorporated 1920

27 MAIN STREET

EAST HAMPTON, N.Y. 11937

516-324-4150

FAX 516-324-4169

OFFICE OF

MAYOR



"HOME, SWEET HOME"
BIRTHPLACE OF JOHN HOWARD
JUNE 9, 1761-AND INSPIRATION
HIS FAMOUS SONG "HOME SWEET"
MAINTAINED BY VILLAGE AS A MUSEUM

July 18, 1996

To Whom It May Concern:

This correspondence affirms support for the establishment of the Child Development Center of the Hamptons. Given the number of pre-school children in East Hampton and immediate environs, identified as being in need of special educational needs, a localized facility would be extremely beneficial to assist in fulfilling their special requirements.

I urge the New York State Education Department to view favorable the application for certification made by Child Development Center of the Hamptons (CDC).


PAUL F. RICKENBACH, JR.
MAYOR

EAST HAMPTON BUSINESS ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 530 • East Hampton, New York 11937

Telephone/Fax (516) 324-8550

July 17, 1996

Ms. Dawn Zimmerman
Child Development Center Of The Hamptons
P.O. Box 1666
Amagansett, New York 11930

To Whom It May Concern:

Some months ago, Dawn Zimmerman shared her plans for the Child Development Center Of The Hamptons with the East Hampton Business Alliance.

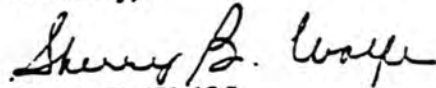
The Business Alliance is very supportive of Ms. Zimmerman in this venture.

Not only should it benefit children in our own community, but it should provide a number of jobs in the community. When it is in operation, it will also save large sums of taxpayer dollars which are currently being spent on transporting these children to Westhampton.

The East Hampton Business Alliance supports using land in the industrial park area for this school.

We wish you all the best as you pursue this ambitious project, and stand ready to be of assistance to you in any way possible

Sincerely,



Sherry B. Wolfe
Executive Director



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

Department of Human Services
300 Pantigo Place, Suite 111A
East Hampton, New York 11937

Edna M. Steck, C.S.W., Director

(516)

May 23, 1996

To whom it may concern:

We, the Town of East Hampton Disabilities Advisory Board, express our wholehearted endorsement and support for the Child Development Center of the Hamptons.

As the population grows on the East End, we feel that an integrated curriculum which combines both regular and special education children, is a vital and necessary program.

Presently, our special education population in our community must travel a minimum of one hour each way to either the Southampton or Westhampton programs. This is a real burden for such children who already struggle with a disability.

If you have any questions please call me at 267-6372.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Glenn Hall, Chairperson
East Hampton Disabilities Advisory Board



THE ROTARY CLUB OF EAST HAMPTON

East Hampton, New York 11937

RALPH J. WOLFE
President

July 22, 1996

Ms. Dawn Zimmerman
Executive Director
Child Development Center Of The Hamptons

To Whom It May Concern:

The Rotary Club Of East Hampton, New York enthusiastically supports the formation of the Child Development Center Of The Hamptons for many reasons, but the local ability to teach our challenged children probably appeals the most.

We stand ready to assist this organization in its huge task, to the best of our ability.

Hopefully, the entire community on the East End will also support this fine endeavor.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph J. Wolfe
President
Tel. 324-5661

*Kiwanis Club Of East Hampton
Box 1902
East Hampton, New York 11937*

*Len Bernard
President*

*Van Quick
Vice President*

Dawn Zimmerman
Child Development Center of the Hamptons
PO Box 1666
Amagansett, New York 11930

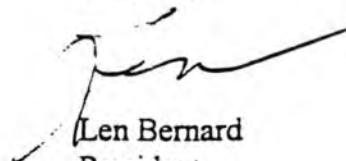
Dear Dawn:

As President of the East Hampton Kiwanis Club I am proud to inform you that at our recent Board of Directors meeting we unanimously voted to endorse the Child Development Center of the Hamptons. We support the need for such a facility in the Town of East Hampton and pledge our future support for the project. As you may know, the theme of Kiwanis is "Children Priority One." Your Center would help to make children, especially those with special needs, more of a priority in our own community.

Our club offers a number of unique resources in that members are community and business leaders with a knowledge of how to get things done in our Town. We are also a volunteer service organization that is always ready to help assist in a worthy cause, such as yours. If we can assist your effort to make the center a reality, please feel free to call us for assistance.

We wish you all the best of luck in your endeavor. We are confident that you will be successful and receive the community support we believe your project deserves.

Sincerely,



Len Bernard
President

EAST HAMPTON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

76 NEWTOWN LANE
EAST HAMPTON, NEW YORK 11937-2409

BOARD OF EDUCATION
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Michael Tracey, Vice-Pres.
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John Ryan, Sr.
Stephen P. Talmage

NOEL McSTAY
Superintendent of Schools

ANTHONY T. CORREALE
Ass't. to Superintendent

MARYLYNN MARRESE, Ph.D.
School Business Administrator

DEIRDRE HERZOG, Treasurer

DONNA MARIE RUSSO
District Clerk

March 26, 1998

Dawn Zimmerman, Executive Director
Child Development Center of the Hamptons
P.O. Box 7115
136 Main Street
Amagansett, New York 11930

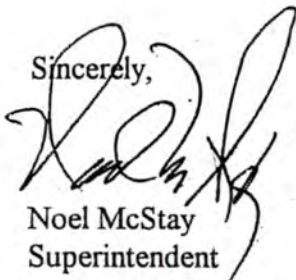
Dear Dawn,

I am pleased to continue my support in your application to the New York State Education Department to develop a special education program in the East Hampton Township to include students of ages 5-21.

Such a program will be truly appreciated by those parents/students who now have to ride a bus, in some cases, over an hour each way to their educational facility. Your program, if approved, will allow students to be educated in their own school district which is most appropriate in addition to saving each student from spending 2 hours daily being transported.

Good luck in this endeavor. If I can be of further assistance in the application process, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Noel McStay
Superintendent

MONTAUK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

50 SOUTH DORSET ROAD
MONTAUK, NEW YORK 11954-5057
TELEPHONE/TTY: 516-668-2474
FAX: 516-668-1107
montaukufsd@hampton.com



"The Lighthouse School District"

J. PHILIP PERNA, SUPERINTENDENT
CAROL EBERLEIN, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
REGINA A. STONE, CLERK
MAURA A. MIRRAS, TREASURER

March 24, 1998

Ms. Dawn Zimmerman
44 Meadow Way
East Hampton, New York 11937

Dear Ms. Zimmerman,

The Montauk UFSD joins you in strongly urging the New York State Education Department to approve the application of the Child Development Center of the Hamptons so that it can begin to run a program for our school-age children in need of special educational services. Montauk is 45 miles away from the nearest BOCES Center and that usually means a bus ride of at least one hour in each direction for our students. Current BOCES costs are exorbitant, and the cost of transporting the students is almost as costly. The Child Development Center of the Hamptons would offer our students a chance to be closer to their community and would definitely be a less restrictive environment.

Please let me know what we can do to help you gain approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Philip Perna". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first and last names being more prominent.

J. Philip Perna
Superintendent

SAGAPONACK COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON
SAGAPONACK, N. Y. 11962

March 12, 1997

Dawn Zimmerman, Executive Director
Child Development Center of the Hamptons
Box 7115, 136 Main Street
Amagansett, N.Y. 11930

Dear Dawn:

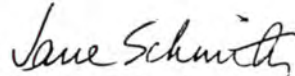
This letter is to support your application to the New York State Education Department for an upward extension of your special education program to include age 5-21 students.

It will be wonderful for students whose needs cannot be accommodated in their home schools to have a facility in East Hampton, rather than having to travel to Westhampton Beach, Riverhead, or points further west. The shorter travel time for our students will reduce one of the big negatives expressed by parents, and will give students more time to participate in activities in their own communities rather than spending their time riding around in mini-busses.

Our CSE and community at large are all in favor of your projected 5-21 program, even though we have few special needs students compared to other school districts.

Good luck with your application. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Jane Schmitz
Coordinator of Special Education

WAINSCOTT COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT #2

MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 79
WAINSCOTT, NY 11975
TELEPHONE (516) 537-1080

March 12, 1997

Dawn Zimmerman, Executive Director
Child Development Center of the Hamptons
Box 7115, 136 Main Street
Amagansett, N.Y. 11930

Dear Ms. Zimmerman:

This letter is to support the application of the Child Development Center to the New York State Education Department for a special education program for age 5-21 students in the town of East Hampton.

At the present time, students with disabilities that cannot be accommodated in their home schools must travel to Westhampton Beach, Riverhead, or points further west. Having a facility in East Hampton not only cuts the travel time for students, but also cuts through much of the resistance many of our parents feel at having to send their children so far away. Children can then participate in appropriate activities in their own communities rather than spending their discretionary time riding around in mini-busses.

Although we do not have many students with special needs, we do have some, and our CSE and the community at large are all in favor of your planned facility. We hope that it is soon successfully launched.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Jane Schmitz

Coordinator of Special Education

SHELTER ISLAND UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 2015

Shelter Island, N.Y. 11964

(516) 749-0302

FAX: (516) 749-1262

DR. LYDIA J. AXELROD

Superintendent

M. KATHERINE DEVLIN-DEGNAN

District Clerk

EILEEN V. HANNEMA

District Treasurer

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Linda M. Springer, Vice President

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Jeanne J. Farnan

Donald E. Bindler

Dr. Scott R. Campbell

April 6, 1998

Dawn Zimmerman, Executive Director
Child Development Center of the Hamptons
P. O. Box 7115, 136 Main Street
Amagansett, N.Y. 11930

Dear Dawn,

This letter is to support the application of the Child development Center to the New York State Education Department for a special education program for age 5-21 students in the town of East Hampton.

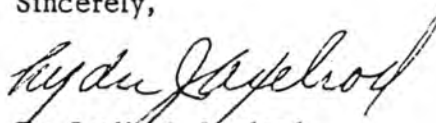
The eastern end of Long Island is indeed deprived of a program for school aged children in need of special services.

The Child Development Center will not only fulfill that need but will also enhance the quality of life for students and families as well.

It is our sincere hope that your projected program comes to fruition and we are in total support of your commitment to this project.

Good luck for this enterprise, and be assured that we lend our unconditional support.

Sincerely,



**Dr. Lydia J. Axelrod,
Superintendent**

LJA/el

Springs Public School

SPRINGS UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF EAST HAMPTON
48 SCHOOL STREET, SPRINGS
EAST HAMPTON, NEW YORK 11937
516-324-0144
FAX: 516-324-0269

BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGINALD CORNELIA, PRESIDENT
JILL A. ANDERSON, VICE PRESIDENT
IRWIN ROBERTS
PETER HASSINGER
DEBORAH SCHIFF

DR. WILLIAM SILVER, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
DAVID ENOS, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
KENNETH HAMILTON, DISTRICT TREASURER
JOSEPHINE TURK, DISTRICT CLERK

April 14, 1998

Dawn Zimmerman, Executive Director
Child Development Center of the Hamptons
Box 7115
136 Main Street
Amagansett, NY 11930

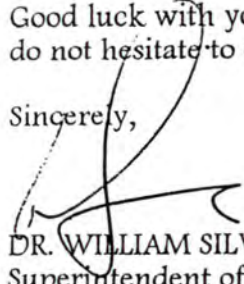
Dear Dawn:

This letter is to support your application to the New York State Education Department for the extension of your special education program to include age 5-21 students.

It will be wonderful for students whose needs cannot be accommodated in their home schools to have a facility in East Hampton. Currently these students are bussed to Southampton, Westhampton Beach and programs further west. These long bus rides have always been a concern of parents, as well as our Committee on Special Education. A program for school-aged children in East Hampton will allow our students to participate more regularly in community and Springs School events.

Good luck with your application. If we can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact either one of us (or both) at (516) 324-0144.

Sincerely,


DR. WILLIAM SILVER
Superintendent of Schools


LUCY BERNARD
Chairperson, Committee on
Special Education

LB/kmc

Bridgehampton Union Free School District

P.O. Box 3021, 2685 Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton, NY 11932-3021
(516) 537-0271 Fax: (516) 537-0443

Fred Coverdale
Interim Principal

Charles A. Ebetino
Interim Superintendent

Deborah Haab
Business Administrator

April 7, 1998

DAWN ZIMMERMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER OF THE HAMPTONS
BOX 7115, 136 MAIN STREET
AMAGANSETT, NY 11930

Dear Ms. Zimmerman:

The Bridgehampton UFSD strongly supports your application to the New York State Education Department for programming school age children 5-21 years of age with special educational needs that cannot be addressed in a home school and least restrictive setting. At present students that cannot be accommodated in their home schools must travel to BOCES in Westhampton Beach. Many parents are resistive to the travel time and lengthy bus ride for their children when they are placed in Westhampton Beach, and further west.

Your program, if approved will offer students an alternative educational program that is near their own school district. Not only will students benefit from less travel time they may also be able to participate in activities in their own school community such as after school special events.

Please let me know if I can be of any further support for your approval.

Sincerely,



Mary Johnsen
CPSE Chairperson

MJ:dd

SAG HARBOR UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

200 JERMAIN AVENUE
SAG HARBOR, NEW YORK 11963

DANIEL W. ALVINO, ED.D.
DIRECTOR OF PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES
516-725-5303 FAX 516-725-5307

January 27, 1997

Mrs. Dawn Zimmerman
PO Box 1666
Amagansett, NY 11980

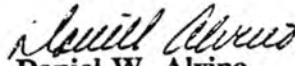
Dear Mrs. Zimmerman,

I was pleased to learn of your recent application to the New York State Education Department requesting authorization to develop a special education program in the Easthampton Township for students ages 5-21. It is my understanding that the proposed program would become an integral component of the proposed Child Development Center of the Hamptons. Needless to say, a program for school age-children in close proximity to our Sag Harbor UFSD facilities is sorely needed and would fill a major program void that exists for programs in the specified age range.

At the present time school-age children with disabilities who require school-based programs are bussed to Southampton, Westhampton Beach, and centers further west. A viable option in our own vicinity would be well-received by our Committee on Special Education (CSE) and by the Sag Harbor community at large. In considering school-based programs, the distance factor is crucial in the decision-making process.

I wish you well in your endeavors. If I can be of any further assistance to you in the application process, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,


Daniel W. Alvino

A R C H I T E C T

Bruce D. Nagel

10 October 1996

Ms. Dawn Zimmerman
The Child Development Center of the Hamptons
P.O. Box 1666
Amagansett, New York 11930

Re: ***THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER OF THE HAMPTONS
PROPOSAL FOR THE PROVISION OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES***

Dear Dawn:

Thank you for asking me to make a proposal to provide architectural services for the New Child Development Center of the Hamptons. As a full time member of this community and parent of a 3 year old daughter, I have very strong interests in the development of your program and know that your success is necessary and needed for our town and area. I am here to help and am willing to do so even if not hired to be the Architect for this valuable project.

I have some experience with these types of projects. In 1989 I completed drawings and went to bid for a Head Start Center that was planned on Flanders Road for the Town of Southampton. This Center was planned for five classrooms, 120 children, administration offices, full kitchen facilities, and a multi-purpose room for rainy day activities and evening community use. Currently I am doing the new East Hampton Day Care Center in the Village of East Hampton. This Center will also be for 120 children and other community services. Therefore, I have some familiarity with the State requirements and the requirements of the Suffolk County Health Department.

I am pleased to propose the following as the basis for my architectural services for your new Child Development Center.

THE PROJECT

You, the Owner will provide me with a program which summarize the complete project. At this point I understand that the project consists of twelve classrooms, administration offices, therapy rooms, recreation room, cafeteria, library, bus drop off area, parking, and playground area(s).

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES AND FEES

I will provide Complete Architectural Services in five phases of work - Schematic Design, Design Development, Construction Documents, Bidding, and Construction Administration.

I propose to provide the Architectural Services described herein for a percentage fee of 6% of the cost of construction as follows: (Assume the construction cost is \$2,850,000.00)

Schematic Design Phase	\$ 25,650.00	15%
Design Development Phase	\$ 25,650.00	15%
Construction Documents Phase	\$ 68,400.00	40%
Bidding	8,550.00	5%
Construction Administration	\$ 42,750.00	25%
Total of these Five Phases	\$ 171,000.00	100%

The Architect's fees include Engineering fees but does not include reimbursable costs.

SCHEMATIC DESIGN PHASE

After receipt of the signed Agreement, I will start work on preliminary concepts for the Center. These will be presented as one or more alternative designs in the form of one-eighth scale plans and sketched views. (If you should require models, perspectives or renderings, these would be provided as Additional Services). Based upon an initial presentation and follow-up review with you, I will make a second presentation with revised design(s) with the expectation that at this point with minor adjustments I will have achieved a scheme which you will approve for development in the next phase.

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PHASE

After your approval of a Schematic Design, I will proceed with the Design Development of that scheme at one-quarter inch scale, and will present you with plans, elevations and views as necessary. These drawings will show the Center in greater detail, with all doors & windows shown, toilet layouts, and a general understanding of the main materials given. I will repeat the meeting and review process used in Schematic Design to refine the plans at this greater level of detail. In this phase of Design, or earlier, I will include as well an overall site plan including the entrance drive/bus drop off and parking area(s), but I will not develop the landscape design beyond this as part of our Basic Services. However, by the end of Design Development I will achieve a design description sufficient for you to fully understand it and to authorize me to produce Construction Documents.

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS PHASE

After your authorization to proceed, I will produce a set of Working Drawings which will enable you to price or bid the construction costs.

The set of Working Drawings will include all elements necessary for construction, except a surveyor's plan of the proposed project, which must be obtained from a surveyor, using the Drawings I have prepared.

The basic elements of the Working Drawings will include a site plan, foundation plan, floor and roof plans, building elevations, and a wall section. In addition, the Drawings will include other elements of information essential for the construction: window and door selections and sizes, finishes, identification of all the essential materials, and plumbing fixtures, equipment and cabinet layouts.

All structural information will be provided directly on the floor plans, and as necessary on the elevations, but details - structural or architectural - will be included in the Drawings only as I deem it necessary to describe the scope of construction. Interior elevations will be similarly included where it otherwise would not be described.

CONSULTANTS

I will need to engage a structural engineer and a mechanical engineer. I do not expect to need the services of or any other specialized consultant for your Documents, in the event that we do need a special consultant that this will be on an fixed fee or hourly basis, to review the work, and I expect that you will agree, having reviewed the proposed additional cost of this consultant, to approve doing so.

CONSTRUCTION COST

At this point, I feel that the budget that we have discussed of \$100 per square foot is possible and can be the target goal. Albeit, it shall be the Owner's responsibility to establish the budget for this project. As your Architect, I recommend that you seek review independent of myself of the construction cost of the projected design. While I as your Architect will assist you in designating materials suited to your own objectives to control costs and will endeavor to keep the size of the project within the limits set forth herein, I will not provide written estimates of the probable cost of construction. I will as you request, however, recommend to you, and assist you in involving appropriate contractors, or professional estimators, to provide such estimates of the construction cost at the conclusion of the Design Development phase.

ARCHITECT'S RESPONSIBILITY DURING CONSTRUCTION

I as your Architect agree to exercise usual and customary professional care and diligence in the performance of the services I have contracted to provide.

During construction of this project, it is also understood that the Architect shall not have control over or charge of and shall not be responsible for construction means, methods, techniques, sequences or procedures, or for safety precautions and programs in connection with the Work, since these are solely the Contractor's responsibility, and the Architect shall not be responsible for the construction schedule(s) or the failure of the Contractor to carry out the Work in accordance with the Documents.

HOURLY RATES FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Beyond the services enumerated above, obtaining permits, applications to or appearances before governmental agencies, or further design consultation (for example, working with interior designers, landscape architect, or revisions in the drawings reflecting desired changes in the project after approvals), as you may require on an hourly basis.

My hourly fees for these or any other Additional Service you may request, when such services are not specifically included in my limited Architectural Services as proposed herein, are as follows:

Principal	\$ 100/Hour
Draftsman	\$ 50/Hour
Secretarial	\$ 25/Hour

If you wish to proceed on the basis of my proposal, please let me know as soon as possible and I will prepare a contract and get started.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce D. Nagel". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "B" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

Bruce D. Nagel, AIA

file: c:\9609\proposal.doc

A R C H I T E C T

Bruce D. Nagel

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER - ESTIMATE

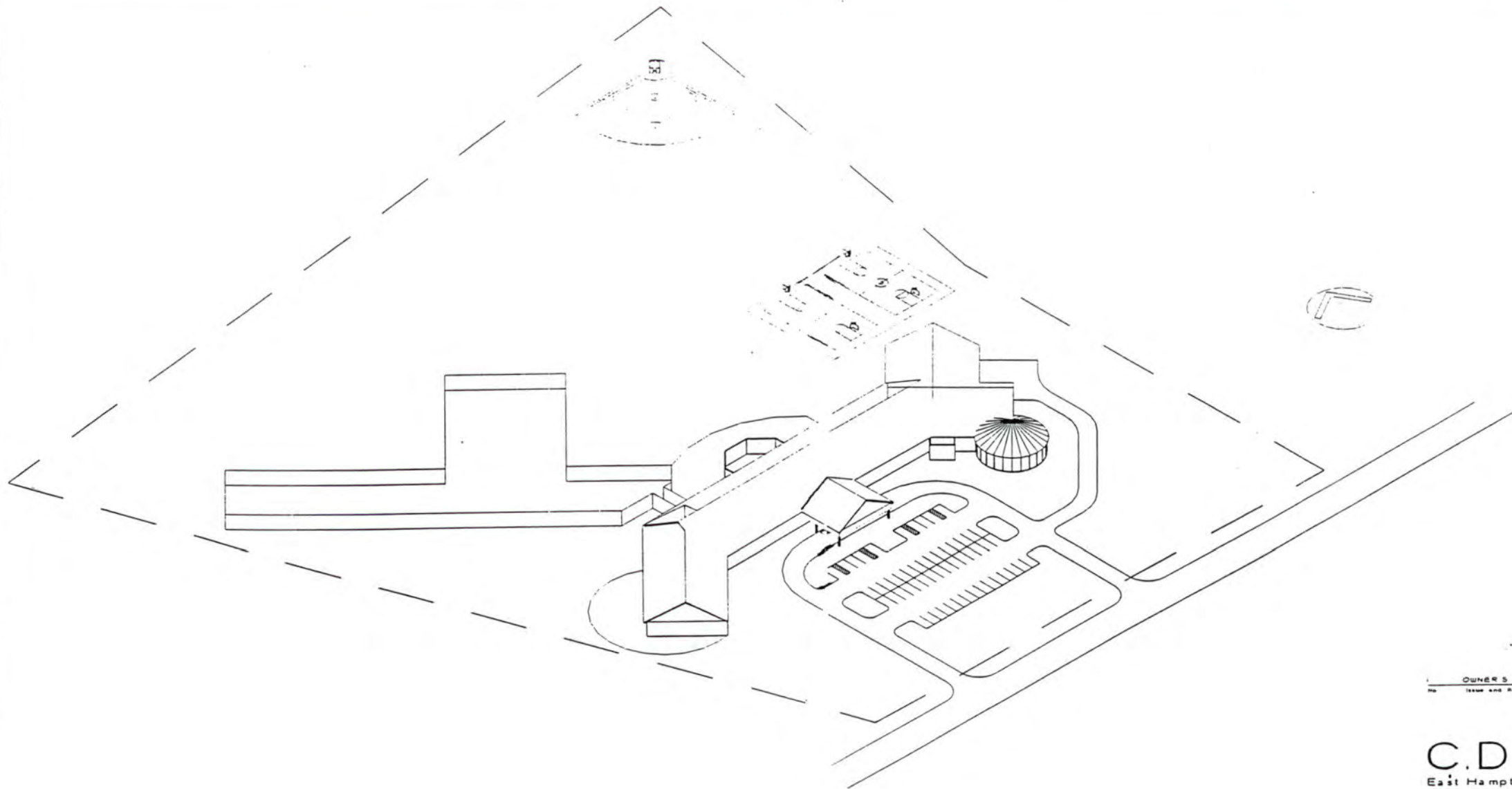
10 October 1996

Items	Cost
Excuvation & Grading	\$67,500.00
Foundations & Slab	\$108,000.00
Masonry	\$215,000.00
Carpentry Materials	\$260,000.00
Labor	\$315,000.00
Windows & Doors	\$140,000.00
Electric & Fixtures	\$238,500.00
Alarm System	\$40,000.00
PA System / Telephone	\$22,500.00
Plumbing	\$112,500.00
Heating & Air Conditioning	\$305,000.00
Sprinkler System	\$40,000.00
Insulation	\$22,500.00
Drywall	\$77,500.00
Ceramic Tile	\$40,000.00
Wood Floors	\$27,000.00
Vinyl Tile Flooring	\$27,000.00
Carpet Flooring	\$58,500.00
Case Goods (Cabinets)	\$112,500.00
Paint	\$95,000.00
Hardware	\$27,000.00
Debris Removal	\$35,000.00
Parking, Driveway & Curbing	\$85,000.00
Landscaping	\$165,000.00
Contractor's Fee (10%)	\$247,100.00
Total	\$2,883,100.00

Play Ground Equipment	\$100,000.00
Architect's Fee (6%)	\$173,000.00
Landscape Architect's Fee	\$50,000.00

TOTAL

\$3,206,100.00



OWNER'S REVIEW
No. Issue and Revisions Date

C.D.C.H.
East Hampton, New York

CHILD DEVELOPMENT
CENTER
of the HAMPTONS

SITE VIEW

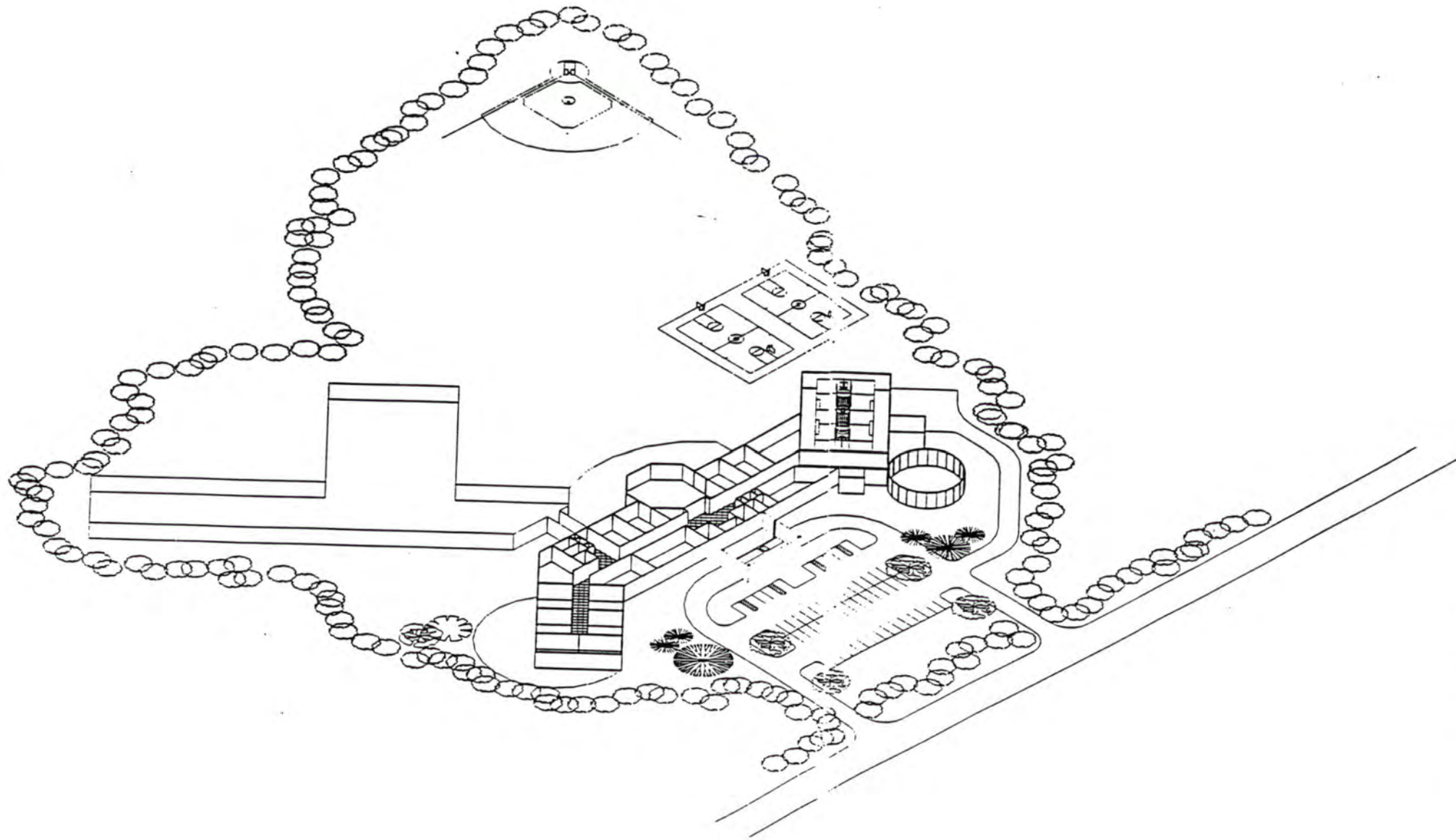
DATE	SCALE	REVISIONS
09/09	1" = 40'-0"	
09/01	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	



ARCHITECT

Bruce D. Nagel

PO BOX 5001 EAST HAMPTON NEW YORK 11937 516/328-5001



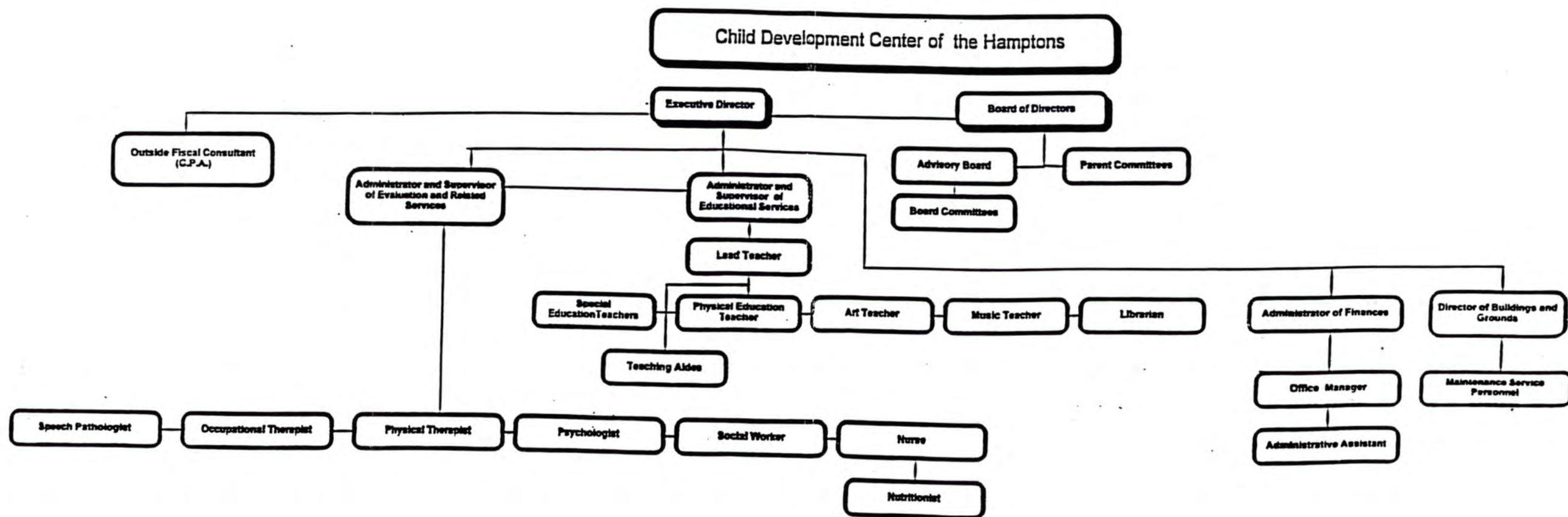
OWNERS REVIEW
 10/1/77

C.D.C.H.
 East Hampton, New York
 CHILD DEVELOPMENT
 CENTER
 of the HAMPTONS

SITE VIEW



ARCHITECT
Bruce D. Nagel
 100 BOX 1000 EAST HAMPTON NEW YORK 11937 516/321-1111



DAWN K. ZIMMERMAN
P.O. Box 1666
Amagansett, N.Y. 11930
(516) 267-3176

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Securities Industry

EXECUTIVE SALES ASSISTANT TO VICE-PRESIDENT OF PREFERRED TRADING

Drexel Burnham Lambert - High Yield Bond Department, Beverly Hills, CA (9/84 - 11/89)

Assisted two traders and three salesmen in all aspects of preferred sales and trading department. Responsible for entire cost effective operation of department, as well as coordination of meetings, events, special projects.

SALES ASSISTANT

Shearson American Express, Beverly Hills, CA (12/81 - 8/84)

SALES ASSISTANT

E. F. Hutton, Beverly Hills, California (9/81 - 11/81)

SALES ASSISTANT

Kidder, Peabody & Co., Los Angeles, CA (2/80 - 9/81)

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Security First Group (Holden Group), Los Angeles, CA (11/78 - 2/80)

Summary of Knowledge and Experience

- Client Relations
- Troubleshooting
- Orders/Quotes
- Public Relations
- Organization of Annual Bond Conference
- Recordkeeping (Profit & Loss, Research Material, Corporate Account Balancing, Money Markets)
- Extensive Telephone Communication Skills
- Customer Service
- Staff Supervision
- Coordination with Third-Party Brokers
- Work Scheduling
- Trade Problems
- Commercial Paper

Sales, Marketing & Public Relations

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Avon Rent-A-Car-Truck, Hollywood, CA (9/90 - 9/92)

Responsible for leasing production vehicles for feature films, commercials and video productions. (Account base of 1200 customers.) Responsible for all advertising and public relation events for the company. Six Avon Locations: Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Santa Monica, San Diego, Phoenix, North Hollywood.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

TCS Publishing, Inc., San Diego, CA (1/90 - 9/90)

Sold advertising space (print) for various community publications and visitors guides. Beverly Hills, Hollywood, West Los Angeles. Glossy four-color/black & white. Experience in helping with ad layout.

STEPHEN P. SICILIAN, Ph.D.

7 Springwood Way
East Hampton, NY 11937

Home: (516) 324-0774
Work: (718) 883-4330

EDUCATION

- 1985 **Ph.D., Psychology**
City University of New York Graduate School and University Center
- 1982 **M.Phil., Psychology**
City University of New York Graduate School and University Center
- 1977 **B.A., Psychology**
State University of New York at Stony Brook

ADDITIONAL CLINICAL TRAINING

- 1983-1986 **Certificate, Child Therapy Training Program**
New Hope Guild Mental Health Clinic
Brooklyn, New York
- 1982 **Psychology Externship**
Developmental Disabilities Center
St. Lukes/Roosevelt Hospital, New York, N.Y.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 1993 - Present **Program Director**, Center for Child Development, Mount Sinai Medical Center, Queens Hospital Center Affiliation, Department of Psychiatry, Jamaica, NY 11432

Manage all facets (clinical, administrative and financial) of Center for Child Development. Provide direct clinical services and supervise multi-disciplinary team consisting of physicians, psychologists, social workers, special educators, speech pathologists, etc. Obtained contracts with New York City Department of Mental Health and State Department of Education to provide evaluation and center-based treatment services under the Early Intervention Program and Committee of Preschool Special Education.

1986 - 1993 **Staff Psychologist**, Long Island Jewish-Hillside Medical Center, Queens Hospital Center Affiliation, Departments of Pediatrics and Psychiatry, Jamaica, N.Y., 11432.

Child Development Clinic: Development and administration of medical and psychological follow-up program for premature and high risk newborns, from Neonatal Intensive Care Unit through age five; participated in interdisciplinary team conducting evaluations of children to age six with developmental and emotional delays; provided individual psychotherapy to three- to seven-year-old children; supervised and conducted seminars for psychology interns, externs and pediatric residents.

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Clinic: Conducted intakes and provide individual and family therapy to children and adolescents; supervised diagnostic testing and psychotherapy of psychology interns and externs; conducted seminars for students and staff.

1987-1989 **Supervising Psychologist**, St. Lukes/Roosevelt Hospital, Department of Pediatrics, Developmental Disabilities Center, New York, N.Y. 10019.

Administered outpatient psychotherapy program; consulted to staff and parents of preschool program; member of an interdisciplinary team evaluating children with severe sensory impairments and/or cognitive or emotional delays; provided individual psychotherapy to children; supervised psychology externs; conducted seminars for psychology interns, externs and pediatrics/psychiatry residents; participated in research projects, including development of a proposal for medical and psychological followup for high risk newborns.

1983-1987 **Psychotherapist**, New Hope Guild Mental Health Clinic, 1777 East 21st. Brooklyn, N.Y. 11229. Brooklyn, N.Y. Provided psychoanalytically-oriented individual psychotherapy to adolescents and adults.

1981-1987 **Evaluation Consultant**, Office of Educational Evaluation, New York Public Schools. Developed assessment strategies and instruments for the evaluation of city-wide federally funded programs; interviewed school personnel and students; analyzed data; prepared final evaluation reports and provided recommendations for future programs.

1984-1986 **Psychologist**, Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, New York, N.Y. 10019. Conducted cognitive and projective assessments of children three to nine years; provided group psychotherapy to preschool children and organized research evaluating the effectiveness of the preschool group treatment program.

1983 **Research Consultant**, Children's Television Workshop. New York, N.Y. Participated in research developing computerized educational materials for home and school use. Contributed recommendations for content and age relevance as well as evaluative research design.

- 1982 **Psychology Extern**, Developmental Disabilities Center, St. Lukes-Roosevelt Hospital, New York, N.Y. Administered cognitive and projective tests, recommended intervention programs, conducted consultations with parents, participated in seminars.
- 1981-1982 **Adjunct Instructor**, Borough of Manhattan Community College. Taught introductory psychology courses.
- 1978-1982 **Research Associate**, Center for Advanced Study in Education, The Graduate School and University Center of the City University of New York. National Institute of Education Grant awarded to study the development of mathematical concepts in children. Program included the investigation of the development of early numerical concepts as well as an investigation of mother-child interaction systems and their influence on cognitive development (Dr. Geoffrey Saxe, Project Director).
- 1980-1981 **Evaluation Associate**, Center for Advanced Study in Education, City University of New York. Participated in the evaluation of Day Care Council Training Programs. Assisted in preparation of the evaluation instruments, analysis of data and writing of summary report.
- 1976-1978 **Research Assistant**, Brain Research Laboratory, New York University Medical Center. National Science Foundation grant awarded to study neuropsychological assessment of atypical children (Dr. E. Roy John, Project Director).
- 1976-1977 **Research Assistant**, State University of New York at Stony Brook. Study of infant development (Dr. Herbert Kaye, Project Director).

CLINICAL APPOINTMENTS

- 1987-Present **Attending Psychologist**, Queens Hospital Center Non-Physician Professional Staff, Department of Psychiatry.
- 1988-1989 **Supervising Psychologist**, St. Luke's/Roosevelt Hospital Center Professional Staff, Joint Appointment to Pediatric and Psychiatry Departments.

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

- 1995-Present **Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry**, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY
- 1987-1995 **Affiliate Clinical Professor of Psychology**, Psychology Department, St. John's University, Jamaica, N.Y.
- 1988-1989 **Instructor in Clinical Psychology**, Psychiatry Department, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, N.Y.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

1979-1982 **University Fellowship**, City University of New York.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Member American Psychological Association
Member New York State Psychological Association
Member Queens County Psychological Association
Member Society for Research in Child Development
Member National Center for Clinical Infant Programs

LISCENSURES

New York State Licensure as Psychologist.

PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS

Sicilian, S. A Comparative Analysis of Blind and Sighted Children's Counting Errors. Child Development, Submitted for publication.

Sicilian, S., and Cowan, S. Proposal for Medical and Psychological Followup of High Risk Newborns. Unpublished manuscript, 1989.

Sicilian, S. The Development of Counting Strategies in Congenitally Blind Children. Journal of Blindness and Visual Impairment, 1988, 82, 331-335.

Saxe, G.B., Gearhart M., Guberman, S., Imperiale, G., Filardo, E. and Sicilian S. Some Aspects of the Social Organization of Early Number Development. Paper presented at the 1983 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development.

Sicilian, S. and Saxe, G.B. Configurations as Figurative Supports in Young Children's Counting. Unpublished Manuscript, 1982.

Saxe, G.B., and Sicilian, S. Children's Interpretation of Their Counting Accuracy: A Developmental Analysis. Child Development, 1981, 52, 1250-1253.

Saxe, G.B., Sicilian, S., and Schonfeld, I.S. Developmental Differences in Children's Understanding of Conventional Properties of Counting. Unpublished Manuscript, 1980.

Saxe, G.B., Schonfeld, I., Sicilian, S. and Segal, C. Cognition About Counting and Its Relation to Number Conservation. Paper presented at the Ninth Annual Symposium of the Jean Piaget Society. Philadelphia, May, 1979.

FLORENCE KELSON, Ph.D.

3 Shorewood Drive
East Hampton, NY 11937
Phone: (516) 324-7447

**EDUCATIONAL
BACKGROUND**

B.S. Brooklyn College - 1948
M.S. City College - 1958
Ph.D. Yeshiva University - 1965

CERTIFICATION

Administration and Supervision
District Administrator
New York State School Psychologist
New York State Licensed Psychologist
New York State Hearing Officer

**PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE**

Jan. 1990-Present

Psychological Consultant
East Quogue Union Free School District

1960-Nov. 1989

School Psychologist
Chairperson of School Psychology Department
Director of Pupil Personal Services
Westbury Union Free School District

Part-time positions held during the last 29 years
include: College instruction, Supervision of Interns,
In-service Training. Specializations include
Developmental Psychology, Exceptional Children and
Special Education.

1958-1960

Clinical Psychologist: North Side Child Guidance
Clinic

1957-1958

Clinical Fellow Psychology: CCNY

**PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILITIES**

Scheduling, training, supervision and budgeting for a special education department of 29 teachers, 7 transitional support teachers and 1 consultant teacher. Administration and supervision of psychology department, social workers, nurses, doctors, speech therapists, dentists, aides, ESL department, district census workers and home instruction. In-service training for psychologists, social workers and teachers. President of administrative and supervisory bargaining unit. Chairperson of Committee on Special Education.

**COLLEGE
INSTRUCTION**

Jan. 1990-Present

Adjunct Associate Professor: Dowling College
Graduate Department of Special Education
Courses presented: Federal and State Laws
for Special Education; Education of the Mentally
Handicapped; Education of the Emotionally Disturbed

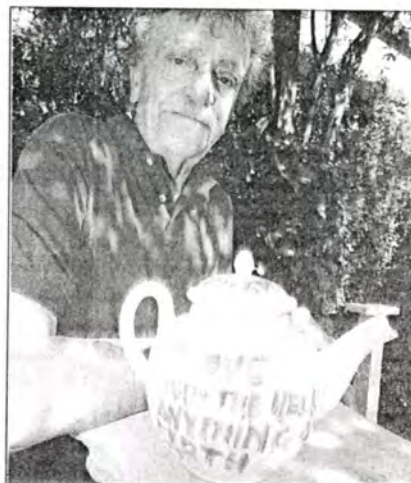
Jan. 1992-Dec. 1992

Adjunct Associate Professor: Southampton College
Department of Education
Courses presented: Educational Psychology

**PSYCHOLOGICAL
CONSULTANT**

Jan. 1993-Present

Suffolk County Department of Health Services
Services for Children with Handicapping Conditions



RICK DEMBOW

WRITER Kurt Vonnegut Jr. with wordy creation; Florence Giannini's daughter peers "Through the Looking Glass," (l.) and artist Carla Olsen's Cheshire cat teapot (top).

Going, going all out for school

By **DEBBIE TUMA**

Special to The News

When Dawn Zimmerman moved to Amagansett five years ago with her autistic son, the closest school for special education was more than an hour away on a school bus.

The ride to Westhampton is no longer an issue — the pre-school program was eliminated for budget reasons by the Board of Cooperative Educational Services.

"This closing creates a crisis for over 100 East End children desperately in need of special education services," said Zimmerman.

She and other parents of disabled children are now raising money to create their own school, The Child Development Center of the Hamptons.

The private, nonprofit school

will be open to pupils from all East End districts. It will serve students ranging in age from 3 to 21 who are challenged by disabilities, including Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy and emotional problems.

Zimmerman and the other parents hope to raise \$5 million to build the new school.

The Town of East Hampton recently agreed to donate 8 acres of land for the school.

So far, Ron Perelman, CEO of Revlon Inc., and an East Hampton resident, has pledged \$500,000.

Last Sunday, the school raised another \$40,000 at a unique event — a Mad Hatter's Tea Party — in the garden of Sagaponack artist Robert Dash.

About 30 artists, including Peter Max, Preston Phillips, Jack Larson, J. Seward Johnson and writer

Kurt Vonnegut Jr., designed teapots, cups and saucers, which were auctioned off by Sotheby's.

Tea sets decorated with hearts, stars, frogs, stripes, flowers — even a Cheshire cat — sold for \$200 to \$3,500, to a crowd of more than 300 eager bidders.

A large, collage-style mirror, called "Through the Looking Glass," designed by Brooklyn artist Florence Giannini, took the top bid at \$3,500.

The bidders, Jim and Kathy Brew, donated the mirror to the school.

Bill Hofmann, an artist from East Hampton, said he wanted to participate to help the children.

"It sounded like a good idea to me, and I've never painted a teapot before," he said. "I was happy it sold for \$600 to boost this worthy cause."

DATE LINES

EAST END /

'Therapies Through the Arts'

Arts and traditional therapy are part of an "enrichment program" at the Child Development Center of the Hamptons, a newly founded preschool for East End children affected by Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy and other emotional and physical challenges.

"Besides the needed treatment for their conditions, we are offering what we could call alternative therapies through the arts," said Dawn Zimmerman, executive director. "Our first theater presentation was so successful that we had to turn down people, but we envision an expansion of these programs beyond the preschool level," she said.

Zimmerman, whose 8-year-old son, Jon, is autistic, started the school on eight acres of land donated by the Town of East Hampton to offer parents and their children an early educational center not too far from home. Most disabled children have to travel three hours every day in their round-trip to Westhampton Beach, the nearest instructional center for special students.

Inaugurated in September, the center employs 15 professionals, among them special education elementary teachers and physical, speech and occupational therapists. "Our goal," Zimmerman says, "is to provide the children with the tools to learn, the courage to achieve and the confidence to reach their potential."

— Victor Manuel Ramos

The New York Times

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NEW YORK, SUNDAY, MAY 3, 1998

\$3 beyond the greater New York metropolitan

The End

Let's hear it for Long Island corporate ingenuity. When **Peter Jennings**, the ABC-TV anchor, finished his keynote speech at the Long Island Coalition for Fair Broadcasting's luncheon last week, the audience expected him to be thanked with some small memento. But in the hands of **Abby Kenigsberg**, the director of the coalition, were no ordinary plaques. Two Long Island businesses had taken the opportunity to promote their companies with gifts for Mr. Jennings. Olympus, the camera manufacturer, gave the broadcaster the first of a new camera line. The Americana Shopping Center offered a crystal boat from Tiffany's. The store will soon open in the Manhasset center. Appearing a bit disconcerted, Mr. Jennings asked if both gifts were worth under \$25. Then he donated the camera to a person he had met during the cocktail hour, **Dawn Zimmerman** of the Child Development Center of the Hamptons. "Auction it off and raise some money for your center," he told her. The Tiffany boat, he kept. The gifts to the keynoter could start a new trend on Long Island — the luncheon commercial. ■

THE EAST HAMPTON STAR

SHINES FOR ALL

I-8

The East Hampton Star, May 7, 1998



Development Center

The Child Development Center of the Hamptons took center stage at an awards ceremony sponsored by the Long Island Coalition for Fair Broadcasting last week. For its story on the Child Development Center, CBS News received a FOLIO Award, presented to print journalists and radio and television stations for outstanding coverage of Long Island. Peter Jennings, the keynote speaker at the event, recognized the school's executive director, Dawn Zimmerman, for her dedication and accomplishments.

The school now has 29 students — twice the number enrolled when the school opened in September. To assist with fund-raising for the school's building fund, students have been practicing their rendition of Maurice Sendak's "Where the Wild Things Are," which will be presented at a benefit this summer. The building fund got a big boost recently, when Ronald Perelman pledged \$500,000.

The center will meet for potential volunteers on Saturday at 10:45 a.m. Volunteers are needed to assist with summer fund-raising and other projects.

Bagels and coffee will be served at the meeting, to be held at the school, which occupies the former Most Holy Trinity School on Meadow Way in the Village of East Hampton.

Dan's Papers

Largest Weekly Circulation in the Hamptons plus Special Manhattan Delivery

DAN'S PAPERS, March 20, 1998, Page 38

ART COMMENTARY

by Marion Wolberg Weiss

ARTS-IN-EDUCATION

(Part II in a series devoted to public and private arts-in-education)

Creativity exists in all kinds of educational settings, although America has a long way to go before art becomes part of every citizen's life - no matter what the setting. We tend to categorize where we think art should and should not reside, obviously placing it most often in the public schools' curriculum. No argument there, except it's never really considered an essential "academic" course like math; art is also frequently the first victim of budget cuts, yet people give lip service to its importance.

How about art in private educational programs where creative experiences don't serve the usual, often extra-curricular functions - where art is fundamental to the goals of the institution and its students?

Such is the case with the newly organized Child Development Center of the Hamptons, an early intervention program for three-five year olds with special educational needs. Here alternative therapies, like art, dance, music and theatre are significant parts of the curriculum. But children with Downs Syndrome and Autism aren't the only pupils who benefit; the Center also has several pupils who do not have any disabilities.

It's obvious that the arts can build self-confidence for any child, no matter what his/her abilities. Jaqui Leader, who directed the Center's recent production of *Peter and the Wolf*, would no doubt be the first to agree with that assessment. But the arts can go well beyond developing a positive self image.



Mary Ponsini with children

For the Center's art teacher John Pomianowski, students learn what it's like to handle materials, especially clay and "to sit in their chair for the whole class." For dance teacher Mary Ponsini, movement helps the Center's children discover their body, noting that "the developmentally-impaired lack a literal sense of self. Dance allows them to see their body as a three-dimensional entity. We also teach them to like their bodies, that it's o.k. to have a different kind of body from the person next to them."

A recent Friday morning class proved Ms. Ponsini's point about body awareness, as the children gleefully engaged in stretching, hand-clapping, dancing like horses at a rodeo and feeling their own heartbeats afterwards. It was also apparent that kinetic leaning facilitates cognitive learning. As Ms. Ponsini explains, "Movement enhances memory, not only sensory feeling. It's wonderful to see how children remember: what to

do, where to stand when we do a certain movement."

Art can also be important in other private institutions, like day camps, as well: one such example is Camp Karole run by the Jewish Center of the Hamptons. Last year's program demonstrated how an art program can have goals that go beyond normal expectations - that art is not necessarily just "fun" or an excuse to make a mess.

Bobi MinaMora, Camp Karole's former Director and herself an art professor at New York's Parsons School of Design where she's been for over 20 years, explains art's function. "I organized fine arts field trips around East Hampton, one being to the local pond so that the older children could get experience painting the landscape. But I encouraged them to paint the water's reflection, not to draw what they saw in a realistic way." Ms. MinaMora incorporated these sessions with lectures, slide shows and instructions on mixing colors, proving that even eight and nine year-olds weren't afraid to take on new challenges.

While Marcia Winter held daily arts and crafts classes for all the campers, there was a "method in her madness" as well - where even three-year-olds learned to focus, listen and respect each other. Both collective and individual projects also taught the children to use a variety of materials.

Once again, art education proves it can accomplish a myriad of special goals in all kinds of environments

-Marion Wolberg Weiss

THE EAST HAMPTON STAR

SHINES FOR ALL

The East Hampton Star, January 15, 1998



Educational Milestone

Springs
January 8, 1998

To The Editor:

In a time when most people are writing letters of criticism and attack, we are writing this letter to publicly thank some people.

Our first son was born three years ago and was diagnosed with Down syndrome. Not only had we become parents, we had become advocates. We felt very alone and overwhelmed with this great responsibility as we faced what seemed to be a constant societal prejudgment of our son.

As he grew, we eventually met other East End families who shared a similar story. Each felt that there were little to no services for our children other than the early intervention program that sends therapists into the home. We felt isolated in our community.

As their children reached preschool age (3 years), most had to transport them to the Board of Cooperative Educational Services in Westhampton, a three-hour round trip — daily. That all ended this past July when BOCES closed its preschool pro-

gram. So, as our son turned 3 years old, we knew we would have to look for other options.

We met Dawn Zimmerman about two years ago. We heard from our son's therapist that a local woman had started a special ed play group called Jumpstart. We immediately enrolled him. At that time, there were a handful of children in a rented space in Goodfriend Park. From that beginning came what is called the Child Development Center of the Hamptons.

We can't say how much we owe Dawn. She has, through her tireless efforts, given us a precious gift. Knowing that our son is in an educational program of excellent quality and especially right in our community has given us real peace of mind. Our son's progress in his new preschool has amazed us all. He has truly blossomed in five short months.

With the help of many dedicated people, a milestone in special education has been crossed on the East End of Long Island. We celebrate this vision of quality education and quality of life for all the special needs children of the Hamptons and their families and we thank Dawn Zimmerman and all those who supported her in making it all happen.

With love and gratitude,

JAN and JOHN HALLSTEIN

Proud parents of Willem Kai Hallstein

1/98

Parent Magazine N.Y.
Big Apple Award.

Our Own Local Heroes

In commemorating our 13th anniversary, we've presented notables in a variety of fields who are having an impact on quality of life for city families. But we are well aware that for each of them, there are many more 'ordinary people', folks like you and us, who are living lives that also make a significant difference. So we asked you, our readers, to tell us about your personal heroes — those whom you admire, love and respect for what they quietly do for others and for how their lives make things a little bit better for those around them. And you did. From teachers to family members to other role models, here are the people who affect *your* lives, who are *your* inspirations, who are *your* — and therefore, *our* — local heroes ...

Dawn Zimmerman

(Executive Director, The Child Development Center of the Hamptons)

Nominated by Michaela Kennedy, who says, "Dawn, the mother of an eight-year old autistic son, has started a community based preschool for children with disabilities. The Child Development Center is actually a private, non-profit, special education school open to the general public so that anyone can attend. The Center came just in time — the only other existing local program for developmentally challenged preschoolers had been closed due to cuts in government funding. Before the Center, parents had to bus their children an hour-and-a-half each way. Dawn works tirelessly for these children and provides a wonderful program — she's unstoppable. She is really inspired by her love and appreciation of these kids."

Says Dawn Zimmerman: "I was affected by something that happened in my life, which is my son, and it was turning a negative into a positive. Not that it was a negative — I don't like to say 'negative' because it's really not; it's a positive. It has helped me grow as a person, and it has given me the strength and the desire to help other children."



NEW YORK POST, WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1997



Charity in Wonderland

WHILE Ron Perelman has pledged \$500,000 to the Child Development Center of the Hamptons, it will only cost the general public \$50 a head Sunday to assist this special school for autistic and Down Syndrome kids.

Local restaurants like Basilico, the Maidstone Arms, Della Femina and Nick & Toni's are providing the food for what's billed as a Wonderland Tea Party in the glorious gardens of artist Robert Dash's Madoo Conservancy in Sagaponack.

Some of those expected at the 2-to-5 p.m. benefit include Roy Lichtenstein, Kurt Vonnegut, J. Seward Johnson, Larry Rivers, Michael Nouri and Aidan Quinn, all of whom have designed teapots and other Alice in Wonderland objects to be auctioned during the afternoon. (For tickets, call (516) 267-0133.)

Dan's Papers

Largest Weekly Circulation in the Hamptons plus Special Manhattan Delivery

DAN'S PAPERS, February 13, 1998, Page 34

review: peter and the wolf

If a person didn't know any better, he/she would think they had stumbled into the opening of a Broadway play last Sunday afternoon at East Hampton's Guild Hall - so obvious was the excitement and standing-room only atmosphere. But the hullabaloo wasn't being generated by

anticipation for *Cabaret* or *The Capeman*. Instead, it was a performance of *Peter and the Wolf* by the Child Development Center of the Hamptons that was causing such boisterous noise and a large crowd.

While the Child Development Center has only

been open since this September, it's obvious that its Theatre Arts program is off to a wonderful start with this production. What's wonderful as well is the fact that such a school, which caters to three-to-five year olds with special educational needs, centers on alternative learning opportunities, offering programs in theatre, dance, music and art.

Executive Director Dawn Zimmerman has a special connection to the Center. "When I moved to Amagansett from Los Angeles, the closest school for my son was three hours away, round trip, on a bus," she says frankly. "I found that there were other parents experiencing the same problem, so there was nothing to do but start a school. You have to go with what you believe in."

Luckily, Ms. Zimmerman was able to rent four classrooms at the Holy Trinity Church for her Pre-School program; the Town of East Hampton has donated eight acres of land for a future, permanent base. It seems a good decision on East Hampton's part. As Ms. Zimmerman notes, "It's expensive to send a child to a private facility: it was costing \$20,000 a year per child for transportation alone, not to mention up to \$90,000 a year for tuition."

It goes without saying that The Child Development Center isn't merely a good financial venture. It functions to provide children with "quality of life" and skill building experiences in a warm and loving atmosphere.

Participating in *Peter and the Wolf* meant other advantages for the children, like improving their self-image and providing practice at working

(Continued on page 38)

Review

(Continued from page 34)

together. It also benefited some students from the Ross School, who volunteered to help the youngsters by appearing in the play, too. It was apparent that everyone on and off the stage was having a good time.

Part of the reason for this "good time" is also because *Peter and the Wolf* establishes an immediate identification with both the music and the animal characters. Everyone, no matter what his/her disposition, culture or age, can appreciate its universality. Under Jaqui Leader's inspired direction, Karyn Mannix's imaginative set/cos-

tume design, and the Chamber Orchestra of the East End's music, the children soared. And so did the audience.

An après-play luncheon at Kay LeRoy's Amagansett home (with food donated by the Saggs Main Store) not only extended such euphoria, but also proved as warm and inviting as the play experience itself. And while Larry Rivers and the Climax Band did not furnish classical music at the lunch like *Peter and the Wolf's*, it was still "classical" in its own way. And most definitely "universal," just like the play.

—Marion Woiberg Weiss

New Housing Authority Questions Raised. (Page 13.)

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Vol. V No. XXIII

February 4, 1998

FREE

February 4, 1998 ♦

The Independent

♦ B-3



"HEARD AROUND THE TOWN"



Getting ready for the production of *Peter and the Wolf* are (L to R) Marc Hernandez, Michael McCay-Scholl, and Russell Young. The production is on Sunday at Guild Hall. Proceeds will benefit the East Hampton Child Development Center.

Independents Jan Marie Mackin

New Housing Authority Questions Raised. (Page 13.)

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February 11, 1998 ♦

The Independent

♦ B-3



"HEARD AROUND THE TOWN"

Compiled by Tracey Anne Crehan



On Sunday, Kay LeRoy presided over a luncheon at the LeRoy estate in Amagansett to benefit the Child Development Center of the Hamptons, following the group's presentation of *Peter and the Wolf*.

Independent / Jan Marie Mackin

THE EAST HAMPTON STAR

VOL. CX, NO. 27

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1998 EAST HAMPTON, N.Y. SINGLE COPY \$1

"Peter and the Wolf," top and bottom right, for the Child Development Center, starring young actors from the center. In between, from left, Dawn Zimmermann poses with Kay LeRoy, Larry Rivers, and Jacqui Leader at a lunch after the show.
Morgan McGivern Photos

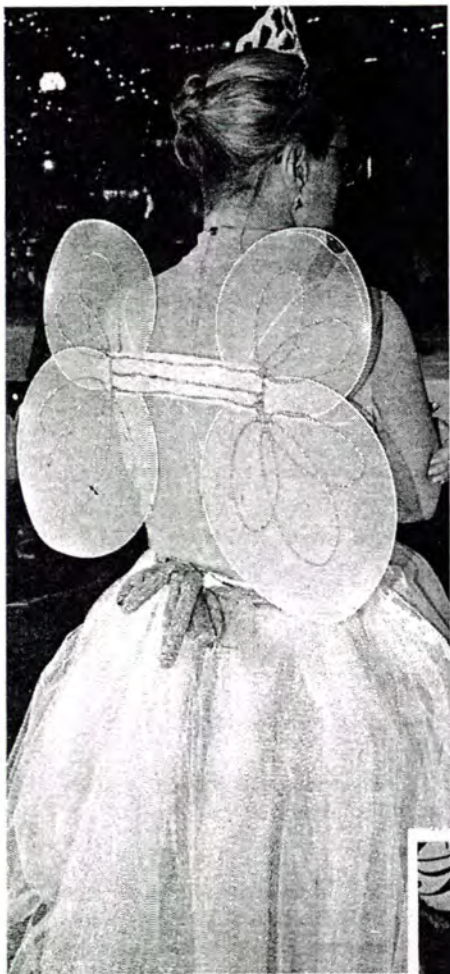


The Back Page

THE EAST HAMPTON STAR

SHINES FOR ALL

The Back Page



VISIONS OF SUGAR PLUMS, angels, clowns, and toy soldiers danced in the eyes of children from the Child Development Center of the Hamptons who attended last Thursday's holiday festival sponsored by Gurney's Inn in Montauk. Santa was there, too, and Cassandra Scanlon, bottom right. Lunch, games, and lots of music were part of the fun.

Morgan McGivern Photos



The Maidstoners challenge you to help challenged kids

By playing us a nine inning game of fast-pitch softball

Where: Terry King Ballfield, Abraham's Path, Amagansett

When: 6-9pm games starting Monday, September 7th, 1998 until we run out of challengers.

How: Field a team of 10 players for 9 innings and bring a minimum of \$1000 in sponsorship for The Child Development Center

Who: Any team of any caliber. If you want to participate and don't have a team call us and we'll get you on one as long as you bring a \$100 of sponsorship for the charity

Or: Sponsor the Maidstoners. Pledge a dollar amount for every game we play or pick an individual Maidstoner and pledge a dollar amount per inning that he plays.

For: The Child Development Center of the Hamptons. All money raised will go toward building a school in EH for local children challenged by handicaps such as Downs Syndrome, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, and emotional problems.

These kids currently have to travel up to 3 hrs. a day to a school in Westhampton. With a little help from a lot of locals we can help make this dream of a local school a reality. Help us help them.

The event is occurring with the full support of the town of

EH and the Parks and Recreation Department. For more information call Peter at The Talkhouse, 267-3117. Sponsored by the Stephen Talkhouse

Choosing 'Special' Mothers

Most women become mothers by accident, some by choice, a few by social pressures and a couple by habit.

This year nearly 100,000 women will become mothers of handicapped children. Did you ever wonder how mothers of handicapped children are chosen?

Somehow I visualize God hovering over earth selecting his instruments for propagation with great care and deliberation. As he observes, he instructs his angels to make notes in a giant ledger.

"Armstrong, Beth, son. Patron saint, Matthew. Forrest, Majorie, daughter, patron saint, Cecilia."

"Rudledge, Carrie, twins, patron saint . . . give her Gerard. He's used to profanity."

Finally, he passes a name to an angel and smiles, "Give her a handicapped child." The angel is curious. "Why this one, God? She's so happy."

"Exactly," smiles God. "Could I give a handicapped child to a mother who does not know laughter? That would be cruel."

"But has she patience?" asks the angel.

"I don't want her to have too much patience or she will drown in a sea of self-pity and despair. Once the shock and resentment wear off, she'll handle it."

"I watched her today. She has that feeling of self and independence that is so rare and so necessary in a mother. You see, the child I'm going to give her has his own world. She has to make it live in her world and that's not going to be easy."

"But, Lord, I don't think she even believes in you."

God smiles, "No matter. I can fix that. This one is perfect. She has just enough selfishness."

The angel gasps, "Selfishness, is that a virtue?"

God nods. "If she can't separate herself from the child occasionally, she'll never survive. Yes, here is a woman whom I will bless with a child less than perfect. She doesn't realize it yet, but she is to be envied. She will never take for granted a spoken word. She will never consider a step ordinary. When her child says 'Momma' for the first time, she will be present at a miracle and know it. When she describes a

tree or a sunset to her blind child, she will see it as a few people ever see my creations."

"I will permit her to see clearly the things I see . . . ignorance, cruelty, prejudice . . . and allow her to rise above these. She will never be alone. I will be at her side every minute of every day of her life because she is doing my work as surely as she is by my side."

"And what about her patron saint?" asks the angel, his pen poised in midair.

God smiles. "A mirror will suffice."

Reprinted with permission of Erma Bombeck.

REACHING THE INNER CHILD

BY MELISSA A. WEISMAN

Dawn Zimmerman says she has two children. Her first child is Jon, a bubbly, handsome boy who was diagnosed at age two with autism. Dawn's second child is the Child Development Center of the Hamptons, an organization which fights for the recognition and support of handicapped children on the East End.

Shortly after moving to the Hamptons from California in 1992, Dawn realized that the BOCES school in Westhampton Beach is the only institution available to children with learning disabilities. The long drive for most children means hours of uncomfortable and sometimes distressing commuting. Zimmerman took it into her own hands to bring about some necessary changes to radically improve the status of handicapped children in the heart of our community.

In 1995, Zimmerman, a resident of East Hampton, established a special after school program called *Jump Start*, in which handicapped children have the opportunity to gather twice a week and become

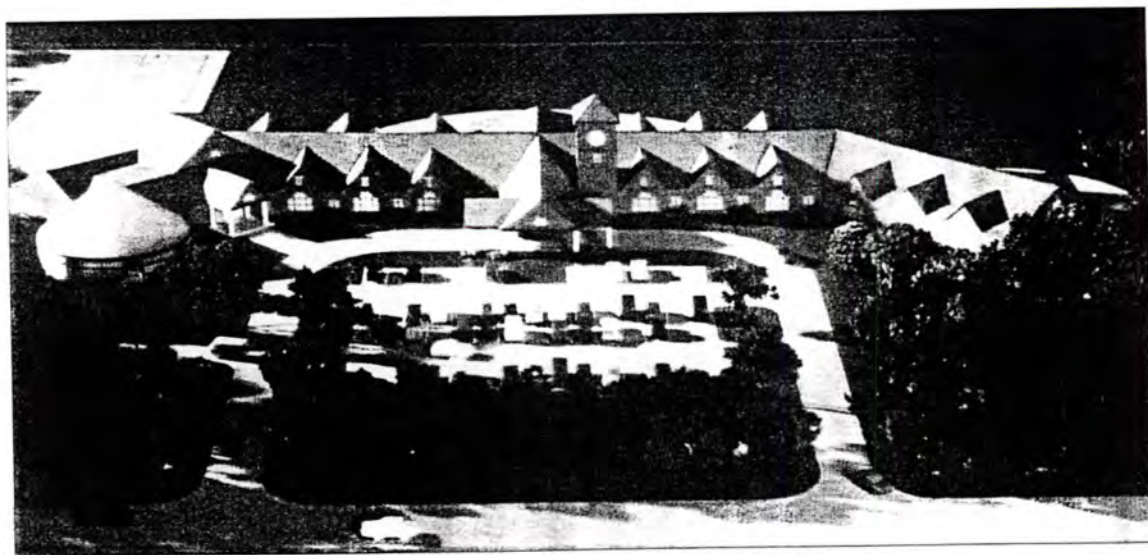
school promise to offer alternative modes of education to children, including setting up a farmer's market on the grounds. The children, with the help of volunteers, will grow, pick and sell vegetables. "We want kids to develop life skills. This is a great opportunity for them to gain self confidence and improve their socializing abilities," remarks Zimmerman. The school will also focus on developing "alternative therapy" which includes inventive theater, art and music programs.

By lobbying the town of East Hampton mercilessly and petitioning for support from some of the most powerful political and social figures, Zimmerman has generated a wealth of positive response for the beneficial cause. The recent donation of \$500,000 by Ron Perlman, who loves children, has reinforced the hope of bringing about change among the volunteers working for the Child Development Center.

On Sunday, July 13, the Child Development Center held a tea party, chaired by Nancy Manser, at Robert Dash's Madoo Conservancy in



Dawn Zimmerman and her son Jon.



Model for the Child Development Center's proposed school.

friends. Drawing together children of all ages and varying abilities has fueled Zimmerman's commitment to bring equal opportunity to disadvantaged kids. "I am now working on building a special school for children between the ages of 3 and 21. The town of East Hampton has generously agreed to donate eight

Sagaponack, to raise money for the organization. An auction of "Alice in Wonderland" tea pots and tea time accessories made by famous artist was a highly successful kick-off event. Donations can be sent directly to Dawn Zimmerman, Child Development Center, 136 Main Street, P.O. Box 7115,

Early Intervention Is Key in Special Ed

By Ellenmorris Tiegerman

AN UNPRECEDENTED ASSAULT on Long Island's special education programs has been launched by Newsday that is so biased, mean-spirited and destructive to the public's understanding of complex issues that one can only conclude Newsday is engaged in a calculated campaign fueled by the State Education Department to dismantle special education without regard to the facts or its impact on the children.

In defending special education programs and in the interest of fairness and honesty, a number of points need to be presented.

The most severe criticisms made by Newsday regard the cost of the preschool system, and yet preschool teachers earn significantly less than public school teachers in our region. Private school special education costs less than public school special education. Preschool special education costs less than school-age special education.

Given all the child development research, early intervention represents an educational "vaccine" for children. Early intervention offsets severe and pervasive long-term learning problems for children with developmental disabilities, and children at risk for disabilities.

Are we a moral society? If we are, then we cannot take a position that says "wait and see" for children. Once a problem has been identified in a preschool child, it is immoral to require a family to wait for services or to deny a child early intervention. It is important for all of us to understand that we cannot undo retardation.

Children with developmental disabilities have lifelong learning problems. A managed-care approach to education says, "If special education

cannot make the child normal, then it doesn't work and it isn't worth the money." The reality is that special education is alternative learning that provides each child with an opportunity for meeting his potential — which may not be normal functioning.

It is immoral and abhorrent to say that if a child cannot be "fixed to be normal," then he is not worth the time, the effort or the money. Is this a Department of Education? Really?

If there were no early intervention programs, the 37,000 preschool children within the present system would enter kindergarten with a marked disability. Once a child enters special education at the school age level, the educational costs increase astronomically.

Older children have more profound disabilities and require more services. Older children are more at risk for behavioral emotional disorders. "Two-thirds of all children who come before the Family Court for delinquency or status offenses suffer from undiagnosed learning disabilities," according to Judge Francis Murphy, writing in the New York Law Journal in 1995.

Newsday focuses on dismantling special education for the sake of "inclusion." There is no long-term educational, experimental or clinical research that supports the efficacy of inclusive education for either disabled children or nondisabled children. Since there is no research base, why is inclusion being "rammed" into the schools, especially in light of the fact that inclusive education costs two to three times more than special education?

Putting the issue of money aside, there is also a moral question about the educational effects of inclusive education on children when we are not clear

about the educational outcomes. Inclusion is based on the notion of social benefit, not academic learning. The result is going to be an educational reduction in the goals and standards achieved by children in inclusive classrooms because of the increased diversity of children in these classrooms.

The more diverse the children, the less the individual instruction; the very nature of classroom learning will change for all students. The regular teacher will have to spend a significant amount of

time away from the non-disabled children to meet the needs of the disabled children, or the disabled children will be turned over to aides (rather than special education teachers), who will act as monitors.

Let us be clear: The function of education is academic learning and academic excellence. Education is not recreation. Inclusion means

that all disabled children should be placed in general classrooms and that special education should be dismantled. There can be no debate that the results will create havoc in the classroom.

Special education is a safety net for children who cannot benefit and cannot learn in the general setting. To dismantle special education removes the safety net for children, teachers and parents. The assumption that inclusion works for all children is a terrible experiment that New York State cannot afford to engage in.

Much like its demand for inclusion, Newsday's 11-part series on special education is, regrettably, filled with so many inaccuracies it would take another 11 essays to refute the positions point by point. In the end Newsday has created a sad, undistinguished report that does no honor to the paper whose slogan suggests, "Where there is no vision the people perish."

'Once a problem has been identified in a preschool child, it is immoral to require a family to wait for services.'

Ellenmorris Tiegerman, executive director of the School for Language and Communication Development and professor of psychology at Adelphi University, is the author of "Collaborative Decision Making: The Pathway to Inclusion." Bob Wiemer is on vacation.

BOCES Backs Out of Special Ed

By Nancy Hyden Woodward

The administration of Eastern Suffolk BOCES has recommended that its service to preschool-age children with disabilities be terminated. The notice that the BOCES Board would take this step was sent to local school districts last Friday.

The memorandum from Eastern Suffolk BOCES president Dr. Bruce G. Brodsky stated that BOCES had to act immediately because it was in violation of a recent state mandate that required each provider of preschool special education to submit to the State Department of Education by January 1 either its business plan to continue the program or its "shut-down plan" if the program was going to end.

Dr. Brodsky noted that BOCES had hoped to defer a decision until it had a chance to interact with state legislators and local boards of education on the state's new restrictions on special education. At present, 292 children are in the Eastern BOCES preschool special education program. One hundred and eighty-one of them should move on to kindergarten level next year, Dr. Brodsky said, leaving 101 to be placed by their school districts in "appropriate provider settings."

"It's going to put a lot of pressure on school districts to pick up the slack," the Sag Harbor Director of Pupil Personnel, Dr. Dan Alvino, said.

More Notice

"I think it's a good idea," Montauk School Superintendent Jack Perna said. "We need to have programs closer to home."

"It's going to leave a big hole that we will have to fill," Mary Johnson, chair of the Bridgehampton School Committee of Preschool Education, said.

"We've been expecting it. We just hoped we could have another year," Lucy Bernard, Springs School's chair of Committee on Special Education, said.

"I wish they'd given us more notice," East Hampton School District Superintendent Noel McStay said. To fully evaluate the impact that BOCES's action will have on the South Fork preschool children with special needs, the Superintendents of the Southampton and East Hampton School Districts will meet tomorrow.

"My phone has been ringing off the hook all day, from North and South Fork people who are very upset," Dawn

Zimmerman, founder of Child Development Center of the Hamptons, said. Zimmerman has been "hard at work" for more than a year to open a local not-for-profit, private "but open to the public" preschool special ed program.

A major reason for the BOCES move is money. "It's program has been running in the red because of the state's method of payment," Johnson said. "The state is not abandoning funding this education. It has restructured its rate of payment and it is not to BOCES's advantage."

Extra Costs

At present, the preschool program is funded equally by Suffolk County and the state. According to Dr. Philip Wood, Deputy Superintendent of Eastern BOCES, the state has decided to give BOCES a prospective rate for a fiscal school year. The rate that it decides on for a coming year does not take into account extra costs that may be realized through increased oil and electricity rates that could go up overnight, and cost of living expenses for staff, costs that will not be reimbursed. Neither does it consider the interest rate (\$400,000 this year) on money that it borrows from banks to meet its financial obligations.

"That comes out to a very large chunk of money," said James Fogarty, Superintendent of Occupational and Special Education for Eastern BOCES. In addition, BOCES has had to wait 18 months to two years to receive payment for its services. "That's the way it always has worked," Fogarty said. "We can't ask our staff and our services to wait two years for their payments."

To offset this, Wood said, BOCES has borrowed from the banks to meet the bill. The interest, if included in the rate, ultimately is paid by taxpayer money which, had it arrived at an earlier time, would not have caused the loan to be made. If it isn't repaid by the state from tax money, the interest due sends BOCES deeper into debt. When the sum to be paid has been "minimal," Wood said, BOCES has charged staff expenses on paper to its school-age program.

Wood called it a Catch-22 situation for BOCES. Because of the state's restructuring of its finances, Wood said, BOCES could be looking at an \$1 million shortfall for the 1996-97 year alone.

"We have no legal way to make up that money," he said. "As of now, the school districts are not responsible for it.

Pataki appears to be saving that the state will not finance its disability children when they exceed a district cap."

The Formula

Based on studies, that cap has been set at 12 percent per district. A district whose disabled student population exceeds the 12 percent will be liable for costs over the cap. The preschool special ed program has 282 children enrolled, with tuition costs \$29,800 each.

Fogarty, who helped start the program 20 years ago, said that he has spoken to both county and state officials on how the new funding method is affecting BOCES. "But they just tell me," he said, "that's the way it's going to be. The formula is based on limiting their expense to this area. By setting up a formula that is beneficial to the state and the county, we have to restructure or stop."

Fogarty said that BOCES did restructure three years ago, but not even that satisfied the state. Trying to play catch-up is comparable to chasing one's tail. "We just can't keep it going," he said.

Unlike school districts which can turn to the local taxpayers and ask them if they would help in an emergency, BOCES does not have that "luxury." Its program is a service that is contracted through the county and the state which set the rate of reimbursement. Most of the time, the money is not paid up front or, for that matter, even near the start of the annual program. After laying out the money up front, through one means or another, BOCES spends the next 12 to 24 months trying to collect it from the state.

Under the state's new funding formula, the wait is going to be longer, Fogarty said. On top of that, the state has put a cap on the percentage of special ed children it will support per school district.

"BOCES is made up of truly wonderful, dedicated people," said Alese Hodgins, the parent of a five-year-old boy with learning disabilities. "The people in Albany are sitting in their chairs, playing politics. They have no idea what it is like for the child with a neurological disorder or what it is like for the family of that child."

Hodgins, who said that she was speaking "strictly as a mother, not as anyone with a degree in child development," called the window of opportunity very small for children with neu-

rological disorders. The younger they are, the more receptive they will be to learning. But, she emphasized, "They are not going to learn by absorbing what is around them. They are going to learn what you put into them."

Sag Harbor School Superintendent Dr. John Barnes said, "This is of great concern to me. We are going to end up with the cost being shifted to the local tax base."

Early Intervention

Barnes called the BOCES component "only one piece of the action." Theoretically, he said, the same service could be bought somewhere else, but practically, he thinks that will be very difficult. "We don't have a regular preschool for disabled youngsters, but it would not be unreasonable for the school districts to establish a consortium to care for the preschool special ed children."

While BOCES has been the main and most prominent provider of such programs, other programs are available, albeit most of them farther up the island. St. Charles Hospital has introduced a satellite program in Southampton. Its Early Intervention Program is a half-day integrated program in Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church, integrated into its regular preschool classes are children with disabilities.

The answers to several questions will have to wait, including can St. Charles absorb any or all of the 101 special ed preschoolers on the East End who will be affected by BOCES's decision? And what about any or all of the younger children who would be coming into it, but whose numbers are unknown at this time? Would there be room for them? St. Charles's director, Ariene Murtha, is out of town until next Monday.

Many eyes on the East End will be turning toward Dawn Zimmerman, who has been working closely with the school districts on her plans. "All our applications are in place," she said yesterday. "I'm trying to find a location." She is negotiating with several places, she said, and is unable to divulge anything more specific about the process.

With 100 resumes from which to choose to staff her program, she feels very confident that something will be in place by July. "School for most special ed children is year-round," she said, "not nine or 10 months."

Zimmerman said that she will start small with tuition support from the state, and hope to build on the program gradually to one that services all school ages. That portion of her plan would be funded through corporations.

"In the meantime," she said, "I have to rent or lease to take care of the immediate problem." Zimmerman does not know how many children her fledgling program will be able to handle. "I am going to try to get as much room as possible, but it all depends on the negotiations."

After BOCES

With Disabled Kids Program Cut, New Center is Coming to East Hampton

On Friday afternoon, I sat in the Child Development Center of the Hamptons located on the quaint Main Street of Amagansett. I was to meet the executive director of the center, Dawn Zimmerman, who I discovered spearheaded the establishment of a new center for disabled children. On the table in the window, was her dream—a scale model of a 2,800 sq. ft. school, which for now is just made of little plastic schoolrooms and buses.

But as I would later find out, by Dawn's tenacity, this dream WILL come true—it has to—especially since the Eastern Suffolk Board of Cooperative Educational Services just CUT the Preschool program for disabled kids, from Montauk to Bridgehampton. It seems antiquated, in the 90's, when we all know how important 'early intervention' is for these children with special needs, to be left with nothing.

I waited in Dawn's office for her to arrive. We had never met, and I had never put a face on her label of 'executive director.' But I noticed things around the office while I waited. On the walls above me, I studied the sensitive faces painted on huge canvases of beautiful children with searching eyes.

Then I read things lying around the office. One thing I read was titled, "Choosing 'Special' Mothers." It said that this year nearly 100,000 women will become mothers of handicapped children. It asked if you ever wondered how mothers of handicapped children are chosen: God passes a name to the angel, who makes a note of it in his giant ledger. He gives a daughter to one, to another a son, another a set of twins, and then he says to the angel, as he smiles, "Give her a handicapped child." The angel is curious. Why this one, God? She's so happy."

"Exactly," smiles God. "Could I give a handicapped child to a mother who does not know laughter? That would be cruel."

When I read that Erma Bombeck had written it, I got the chills. I always felt a connection to Erma Bombeck and then I realized that Dawn may have felt the same connection.

Then I noticed a framed photograph hanging on the wall of a little boy wading in still water

Dawn never realized just what these kids were missing until a couple of Christmases ago.

just above his ankles; his arms stretched out behind him as he bent over, getting a closer look at his own reflection. I wondered what he was thinking as I was getting a closer look at him.

Then Nikki, Dawn's assistant, told me that the little boy was Dawn's son, Jon, who has autism. My heart skipped a beat.

Under the photograph there was a poem and some of the lines read:

A meeting was held quite far from earth
It's time again for another birth,
Said the angels to the Lord above
This special child will need much love.
And he'll require extra care
FROM ALL THE FOLKS HE MEETS DOWN
THERE.

And then I thought even more about WHIO this lady Dawn was; she was coming more and more into focus. I admired her independence, her determination, her sense of humor, and above all her big heart. And I knew all this about her before we even sat down at her desk and met.

Dawn told me that she moved here from L.A. in 1972. She said her son, Jon, who is now 7, was diagnosed with autism at two and a half years old. At the age of three, Jon started going to BOCES in Westhampton Beach. They had a good program, but many parents were not happy about the busing. Some kids actually spent over two and a half hours on the bus—one way.

Dawn never realized just what these kids were missing until a couple of Christmases ago, when she found herself hurrying to get home in time for Jon's bus. Ironically, when she reached the main street in East Hampton, perhaps one of the most picturesque spots in the world, she found herself in her car right behind her son's bus. She saw the background of all the children ice-skating on the pond. And then she saw the back of her son's head. She looked back at the ice-skaters again, and then saw her son's face pressed against the bus's window. That was Jon's world, where he spent half his days—on a bus. He never got to spend time in town.

In fact, in the town where 'all the beautiful people go' you never see a disabled child on the streets.

Dawn decided from that day on she would do something about it. And she has not stopped working since. She recently received a very generous donation of \$500,000 from Ronald Perelman of East Hampton, but she still has a

(Continued on page 50)

Boces (Continued from page 43)

way to go, as the building of the proposed school on Industrial Road in East Hampton will cost approximately \$5 million.

Again, I thought of the poem—"He'll require extra care, from ALL the folks he meets down there." And I hoped that ALL the folks will help support these children.

People could be told all about the wonderful programs which they will offer in the school, including a cultural environment of drama, dance and movement, music, and art therapy. And people will learn about the program to have a farmer's market open from Memorial Day through fall, with these kids running it, selling vegetables and flowers and regenerating the money back into

the school. People will see that the main goal of this is to get them involved with life skills. People will learn how this approach will help them with self-esteem, confidence, and socialization skills.

But will people remember? Perhaps if they just remember the schoolbus scene: Think about the child on the bus again. Picture the child sitting on the bus. Now picture this child turning around to look at you. Now this child has your own child's face. . . that is one way to REMEMBER these children.

—Janet Berg

FUND-RAISER HELD JULY 13TH

Sunday, there was an afternoon "Tea in Wonderland" held at the Madoo Conservancy in Sagaponack. There were many women in straw hats and men in pale-colored suits, sipping tea and getting lost in the maze of Robert Dash's gardens. Indeed, I was reminded of Alice in Wonderland looking for that rabbit; lined up along the hedges were the hand-painted tea pots displayed by many local artists and waiting to be auctioned off by Sotheby's.

Also looking like she just stepped out of a storybook, Carole Pichney, the author of *How to Serve A Proper Victorian Tea* was in the gazebo wearing her Victorian dress and carrying a lace parasol.

Chairpersons involved are Judy Licht, Jon Scanlon, Sandra Stetson Schifter, Debrah SRB, *Country Magazine*, Alvenia Bridges, Bridget LeRoy, Sherry Babb, Philipp Manser, Kip Usher, Nancy Manser, Kris Liem and Kimberly Goff.

These people, along with many others helped support the children. They too will be remembered.

Special Ed In Limbo

Parents of handicapped preschoolers will have to wait at least another month to know whether their children will be able to continue attending government-funded special education classes.

The Eastern Suffolk Board of Cooperative Educational Services had been expected to terminate its special education program for children 3 to 5 on Tuesday night, but postponed the decision at the last minute. Its next meeting is Feb. 25.

The program serves 282 children from 55 districts, including 33 children who live east of the Shinnecock Canal.

In the month ahead, special educators hope to pressure state legislators to reverse promised budget cuts that target special education. BOCES discontinued an early intervention program for handicapped babies and toddlers in June 1994 for similar reasons.

State Cutbacks

While routing a state budget that would raise overall school aid by \$502 million (and increase East Hampton's aid by about \$80,000, up 8.5 percent), Gov. George Pataki has proposed that school districts spend \$71 million on handicapped chil-

dren's programs, costs formerly picked up by the state.

The Governor also wants to penalize districts that enroll more than 11 percent of their students in special education classes, and he is said to be considering making districts financially and administratively responsible for the testing and consultations that lead to these placements.

State and county monies now cover these costs.

"Fiscally Impossible"

In eastern Suffolk, government-funded preschool special ed carries a price tag this year of \$7.82 million, said Dr. Philip Wood, a deputy BOCES superintendent. More than 65 percent of it goes to pay teachers.

"We have 24 teachers and 17 speech teachers, all certified, with an average salary of \$77,000 a year," Dr. Wood said.

Delays up to 18 months in state reimbursements and the threat of further state cuts "make it fiscally impossible to continue," said Dr. Bruce G. Brodsky, the Eastern Suffolk BOCES president. He projected a loss of more than \$1 million should the program survive.

"We don't want to let go of the program, but our hands are tied," Dr.

Brodsky said. He said the board had no way of raising additional funds.

Several other BOCES boards have terminated their preschool special ed programs, Dr. Brodsky noted. Buffalo and Westchester among them.

State Is Late

The cost of preschool special education is shared by the state, which picks up 59.5 percent, and the county, which covers the balance. Last year, Governor Pataki's proposal to pass 10 percent of pre-K special education on to school districts failed to pass the State Legislature.

"The county has paid BOCES in a timely manner for the bills it has submitted, with only a small portion of them in dispute," said Eugene Durney, head of services to children with disabilities at the Suffolk Department of Health Services.

Placing students in other programs "should not be a problem on the East End," Mr. Durney said, and will "not be harmful to the children."

At least a half-dozen facilities and/or providers will probably be able to offer suitable programs here, he maintained, but declined to say which.

The new Child Development
Continued On Page 1-7

Special Ed

Continued From Page 1-1

Center of the Hamptons, a private nonprofit organization with offices in Amagansett, has been raising funds to build a facility on Industrial Road, on land it would lease at low cost from the town.

The center has received state approval to start an early intervention program for handicapped East End children, birth to age 3. It also has applied to run a pre-K special education program.

"All we need is a location," said Dawn Zimmerman, the center's founder, who is negotiating with various organizations for space.

One of them is the former Most Holy Trinity School on Meadow Way, where the East Hampton School District's kindergarten classes are meeting until the John Marshall Elementary School's new kindergarten wing is completed.

Another is reported to be St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Amagansett.

Other Centers

Plans now call for the kindergarten to return to John Marshall on Feb. 24, after the February break. East Hampton School Superintendent Noel McStav said on Monday.

Robert Grau, a member of Most Holy Trinity's finance committee, confirmed that he was talking with the child development center, among other schools and day care programs.

"We'd like to do whatever we could," for the development center, he said, but added that talks were in only initial stages.

Also offering preschool special education and early intervention is the Education and Therapeutic Center of St. Charles Hospital, which opened its doors in Southampton to six handicapped children in April 1995. Now, according to Maureen Zapke, the center's coordinator, it has an "integrated" enrollment of about 30 children, with and without handicaps, including several from South Fork districts.

The program rents space in Sacred Hearts Roman Catholic Church on Hill Street; the hospital is in Port Jefferson.

Not In District

The East Hampton School District considered starting its own preschool special education program at the Learning Center, where it launched a new prekindergarten in September. At a recent School Board meeting,

Joseph Frascino, who heads the district's special ed program, was authorized to begin the state certification process.

However, Mr. McStav told The Star he staved Mr. Frascino's hand soon after, citing a "cumbersome application process," the reimbursement problem, and the fact that "none of the partnership districts have come on board yet."

"We're going to have to look elsewhere for placements for our children," said Mr. Frascino.

A good school here is "sorely needed," said Florence Kelson of East Hampton, a special education consultant to the county and a former board member of Ms. Zimmerman's development center. However, "I don't think East Hampton [schools] will need a separate facility."

"As a private citizen," she added, "I would rather see the kids referred to Dawn" than added to the district's responsibilities.

Private Sources

Dr. Brodsky said BOCES "will work with local districts and private providers" to find new placements for the children. "We are concerned," he remarked, "about whether the kids will get as fine an education."

Ms. Zimmerman said she has talked with districts on both the South and North Forks, and estimated that there were "as many as 60 children" with special needs, aged 3 to 5, who could attend classes at her center.

She also has identified at least 20 East End infants, birth to 3, eligible

for the center's early intervention program, which is offered in the home.

"Resumes are coming in like crazy," she said, estimating "over 100" to date. Since the news was made public Friday about Tuesday's BOCES action, her "phones have been ringing off the hook," she said, with calls from parents.

She expressed "some concern" about reimbursement from government sources, which are required by law to "take care of these kids," she said, but declared, "We'll deal with that if we have to." She declined to say how much money the center has raised.

In order to provide the "least re-

strictive environment," also required by state law, Ms. Zimmerman has said, her facility will offer a regular day care program for children without handicaps. "There's a lot of need here for day care," she asserted.

County Executive Robert E. Gaffney is said to consider the preschool special educational programs a "drain" on the county. "Frankly," said Mr. Durney, "it is the only program I know where the supporting agency, that is, the public school districts, have no financial stake — make no financial contribution."

"That's always problematic," he said. SUSAN ROSENBAUM

Special Ed: Nowhere To Go

State Education Department officials insisted this week that "an orderly transition" was under way, but parents of about 30 preschool special education children from Montauk to Bridgehampton were not at all sure about where their 3 to 5-year-olds will go to school this summer and in September.

The Eastern Suffolk Board of Cooperative Educational Services decided last week to close the doors of its 20-year-old preschool special education program in Westhampton Beach on June 30. The action, anticipated and postponed for more than three months, returns preschool children with disabilities to their school districts for placement.

"We haven't heard from any school districts about trouble placing children," said Bruce Schachter of the Education Department's regional office in Lindenhurst. "There are other programs available."

Hope For New School

Not so, said at least one East End school board president, John Wyche of Bridgehampton, who broke the news Monday to his board and a roomful of parents.

"It's not comfortable or fair for the state to push individual school districts to deal with this program," he told them.

As to what's in place for these children, said Mr. Wyche, "Right now, we have nothing."

"One of the districts' and families' hopes is that the state will move quickly to approve the Child Development Center of the Hamptons. For almost two years, the not-for-profit group has been organizing a preschool in East Hampton for children with — and without — disabilities. Its capacity will be 60 students, including some who might come from farther west or the North Fork.

Await State Approval

The development center, headed by Dawn Zimmerman of Amagansett, has received state approval for a small portion of its program — teachers who visit children with special needs at home or in day care centers.

However, it is awaiting the state's seal of approval for its main offerings, including an evaluation center for

prospective special education students and "special education classes in an integrated setting," meaning together with nonhandicapped children.

Mr. Schachter said the state must also review the center's budget and approve its leased quarters, at the former Most Holy Trinity school building on Meadow Way.

The center is raising funds to build its own facility on land leased from the Town of East Hampton on Industrial Road. Ms. Zimmerman said she hoped to break ground in the fall.

Can't Miss Classes

Mr. Schachter declined to be pinned down on when the new school might appear on the state's "approved" list. A review of its application was to have taken place this week by telephone, he said, with a site visit by Education Department officials likely "within the week."

East End school officials in East Hampton, Springs, and Sag Harbor all told The Star this week that a number of students — those who must go to school year-round to avoid losing ground — will need placement by July 1. One Bridgehampton parent told Mr. Wyche at Monday's meeting that her daughter regresses after a single week without classes.

Alternatives

"I thought the BOCES school would stay open for another year," said Ms. Zimmerman, adding that

she has received calls from roughly 35 families "since last week."

Ms. Zimmerman said she has been interviewing for the last two months to hire a faculty of 24 full-time teachers and aides and three administrators. She said she had received a number of resumes from the BOCES program's faculty.

Besides the development center, parents and districts can look to one other South Fork facility, the Education and Therapeutic Center of St. Charles Hospital in Southampton, which can accommodate about 25 more children.

Also, Just Kids, a Wading River facility, has a branch program in Riverhead.

The BOCES decision, based on a

recommendation by its Superintendent, Dr. Edward Milliken, came as a result of a projected \$1.5 million shortfall in the program's budget this year.

BOCES officials have said lower reimbursement rates for professional services and delayed payments from the state caused the deficit. State officials, however, claimed the program was too expensive and cited teacher salaries averaging more than \$80,000.

The staff salaries at the Child Development Center will likely be a lot lower, but fiscal constraints are inevitable. Tom Connors of Amagansett, a founder and board member, said the center was conducting a corporate and individual fund-raising campaign and hoped to raise enough to plug any loophole in government reimbursements.

Wide Support

He noted that transportation costs for East End students — now averaging \$2,000 per month per child to the Westhampton Beach facility — would be vastly curtailed, with parents transporting their children locally, or local school districts providing busing.

Mr. Connors said the program had received widespread support from school districts on both Forks as well as from public officials, including Congressman Michael Forbes, Senator Patrick Moynihan, State Senator Kenneth LaValle, Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele Jr., and the East Hampton Town Board.

"We want to help the local community," said Mr. Connors.

SUSAN ROSENBAUM

Front Page
The Star
EH
4/17/97

New Special Ed School

Supporters of a proposed \$5 million school for disabled children on Tuesday asked East Hampton Town for financial help in the form of a low-cost lease on four lots at the Town Industrial Park. This was the first public discussion of plans, in the works for months, that would give parents an alternative to busing their children to Westhampton for special education.

Letters Of Support

For months supporters of the Child Development Center of the Hamptons, as the school for the disabled will be known, have been meeting with town and state officials and local business leaders and have worked with Supervisor Cathy Lester on finding a site. However, they had declined to go public until they were sure they had everyone on board.

A packet of information handed out Tuesday included letters of support from State Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele Jr. and his predecessor, John Behan, now head of the State Division of Veterans Affairs; from Sherry Wolfe, executive director of the East Hampton Business Alliance, and her husband, Ralph Wolfe, president of the Rotary Club; Village Mayor Paul F. Rickenbach Jr.; and school officials from all over the North and South Forks and Shelter Island.

The group was led by Dawn Zimmerman, the mother of an autistic boy and an Amagansett resident. A former marketing and sales executive, she said she came up with the idea after sending her son off on too many long bus rides to the nearest special education school, at the Board of Cooperative Educational Services in Westhampton.

Lack Of Activities

There are no afterschool, weekend, or summer camp activities in East Hampton or Southampton for disabled youngsters, who "need to be in their own community," she said. Her "phone rings off the wall" from parents in similar straits, many of whom also have difficulty finding at-

home services that the more severely disabled children may require, she added.

A year ago, Ms. Zimmerman established Jump Start, a program for special children at the Center for Wellness in Wainscott, and she is a special education advisor to the Amagansett School.

She brought to Tuesday's meeting Bruce Nagel, a local architect who designed the school and worked on the East Hampton Day Care Center's new building, and most of the school's trustees.

Board Members

They included Florence Kelson, a special education teacher and Dowling College professor; George Aman, the Amagansett School Superintendent; Steven Sicilian, a psychologist who runs a similar facility at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Jamaica, Queens; George Biondo, a lawyer and former Montauk School Board member, and Tom Connors, a financial advisor who is trying to raise the \$5 million needed to build, equip, and run the school its first year.

Robert Savage, the town attorney, and Dr. Gail Schonfeld, a local pediatrician, are also on the board of trustees.

The group has a state charter, good for two years, to run a nonprofit, private school for disabled and non-disabled children, from 3 years old through eighth grade. They are operating, for the time being, out of Mr. Savage's private practice office and have applied to the state to become a working model for development centers, which are expected to spring up all over the state.

Ms. Zimmerman told the board on Tuesday they hoped someday to expand the school and its charter to accept students through the 12th grade.

Mr. Nagel's design showed 12 classrooms, a gymnasium, a cafeteria, and offices covering 28,000 square feet, with an outdoor play area, basketball court, and a baseball field. The four lots at the Industrial Park it would be built on, if the Town Board agrees to a lease, are at the corner of Industrial Road and Town Line Road.

Construction was projected at roughly \$3 million with an additional \$2 million needed for furniture, equipment, and the first year's bud-

get. Mr. Nagel said the costs would be minimized by the private school's being able to "use local contractors by invitation," as opposed to being required to solicit competitive bids, as public schools must do.

Potential Donors

While the group is planning some fund-raisers, Mr. Connor said he "has a list of targeted people" who are considered potential donors. He said the trustees were asking the Town Board for a letter of support and for the community "to embrace" the project.

The board agreed to give the school trustees a "letter of intent" expressing support that was conditioned on their raising enough money and obtaining site plan approval from the Planning Board.

Councilman Thomas Knobel, however, wondered whether the Industrial Park was the right place for a school.

There is a church and a television production studio there now, and "there's no need to hold out for these industries that are never going to come to East Hampton," responded Councilman Peter Hammerle, who "pledged full support" to the project.

Fully Integrated

Mr. Sicilian said the school would employ up to 35 people, 18 of them professionals, such as teachers and therapists.

BOCES segregates students by level of disability but the Child Development Center would be fully integrated, accepting even non-disabled children, and hoped to send their students to participate in some programs at local public schools as well, said Dr. Kelson.

Changes in state mandates and the state budget have left public schools with less funding to accommodate special needs but "more of a direct responsibility" to do so, added Dr. Aman, whose own child has Down's syndrome and attends BOCES.

"To see your child go off to Westhampton at two or three years old is unbearable," he said.

Significant Savings

Saving local schools have seen a notable rise in the number of disabled preschoolers, the proponents said it costs public schools dearly to hire speech therapists and other specialists at per-hour rates and to bus

children to Westhampton, while the taxpayers would save a significant amount by having a full-time staff at a local facility.

Dr. Aman added there was now "no coordination, no holistic approach with what few services are available here now." Mr. Biondo, who joined the group recently, added that the state and Federal governments "are abandoning us but God does help those who help themselves."

SPECIAL ED

Won't Pay For Full Day

Parents of 3 to 5-year-olds with special needs have been waiting for the other shoe to drop ever since the Eastern Suffolk Board of Cooperative Educational Services decided to shut down, as of Tuesday, the preschool special education program it has run for 20 years in Westhampton Beach.

Their fears and that of school district officials seemed warranted when they heard on June 17 that many children formerly in full-day BOCES programs now can attend only part-time certified programs, two-and-a-half hours or less, in East Hampton Town. At least that is all the state and county, which share the costs of preschool special education, will pay for.

The news of the limited programs came from representatives of the State Education Department in a telephone call to Dawn Zimmerman of Amagansett, who had been awaiting the department's go-ahead to start her preschool at the Child Development Center of the Hamptons.

Feels Shortchanged

A year ago, the state put a moratorium on new programs in "contained" classrooms, that is, those attended only by children with disabili-

ties. Nonetheless, all children formerly at the BOCES program will receive an "appropriate placement," Steven Berman, of the Education Department's regional office in Lindenhurst, asserted last week.

Ms. Zimmerman wanted to provide full as well as part-time classes for East End children formerly served by BOCES, integrated with those who have no disabilities. She received approvals, however, only for four part-time classes, accommodating a total of 38 children.

Jan Burgevin of Springs thinks "the government is shortchanging the children." Her 3-year-old son, Willy, who has Down Syndrome, has been getting 10 hours a week of one-on-one early intervention services at home, such as physical and speech therapy, since he was a year old, but is "ready now" for a full day of socialization.

Cutting Costs

"When you build it, they will come" is true," said Mr. Berman. "We created too many full-day programs, and there is a concern for cost."

The Governor's office has proposed cutting as much as \$180 million statewide from the preschool

special education budget this year.

Apparently taken by surprise at not getting approval for at least some full-time programming, Ms. Zimmerman said that "everybody's upset." She did not "have a clue that this would happen," she added.

At a June 20 meeting with special education representatives of East Hampton Town's school districts, the consensus was that she should proceed, she said. She will open her school in September.

Enrichment Program

"We are not limited to state-approved hours for those willing to pay privately," though, she explained. "We always believed that there are children who need full-day. It's the only thing that has proven to help these kids."

To extend the children's school-day, Ms. Zimmerman told The Star, the development center may offer "cultural enrichment" to the "part-time" students for several hours each day. But families would have to pay for such a program in full, if they could, or be charged according to a sliding scale. Included would be in-

Continued On Page I-13

Won't Pay

Continued From Page I-1
struction in music, theater, and art.

Though the extended-day plans are far from developed, she said, she hoped to include a lunch period too, as well as time to enhance "socialization skills and purposeful play."

"I think [the state] is going back in time here," Ms. Zimmerman added.

Paying for the extra hours is "not ideal," said Mrs. Burgevin, but "my son is a priority and we are trying to maximize his early years."

The center, a private nonprofit organization, has leased space in Most Holy Trinity's former school building on Meadow Way and has been interviewing staff and families of prospective students for months.

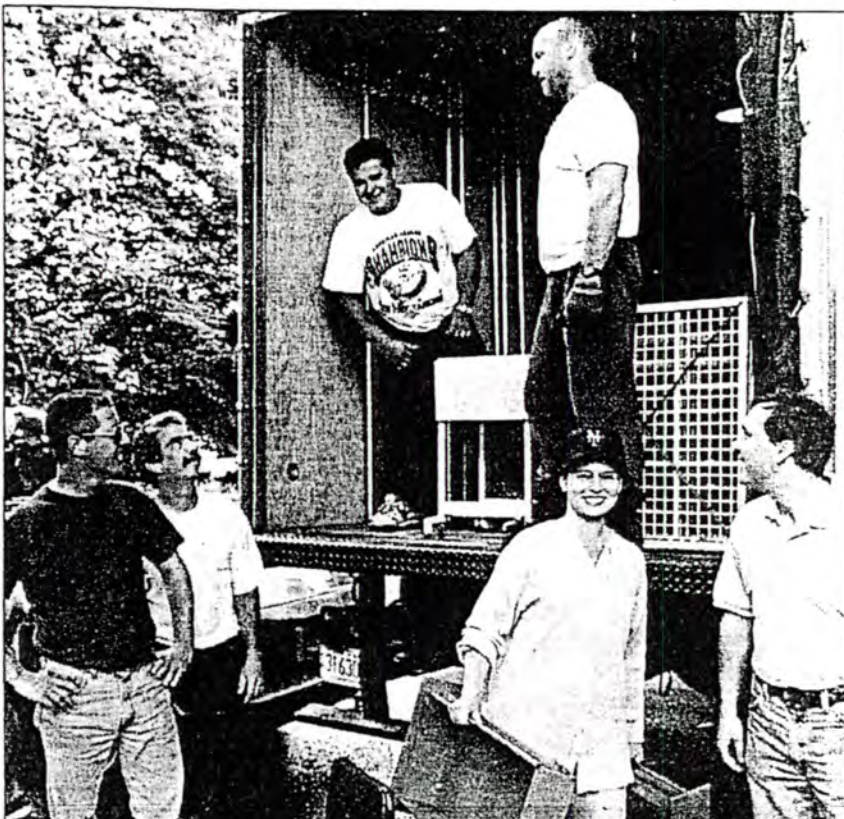
Just this week, Ms. Zimmerman made public a \$500,000 pledge to the center by Ronald Perelman of East Hampton and New York toward the \$5 million cost of building a new school on an Industrial Road property leased from the Town of East Hampton.

Besides that, a fund-raising campaign to date has brought in about \$60,000.

East End families have another option for their preschoolers with special needs, though it means traveling to Southampton. The Education and Therapeutic Center of St. Charles Hospital, which operates out of the Sacred Hearts of Mary and Jesus Catholic Church's school building, has offered a special education preschool for two years.

Dr. Marie Ficano, who runs the program, and another in Port Jefferson, said that the Southampton center had received new approvals for a full-time program (five-hour day) for six severely disabled children and one part-time program in addition to several that it has been running for the past two years.

State officials have agreed to fund



THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER was among the beneficiaries of the Bridgehampton National Bank's cast-off office furniture when the bank moved to new headquarters recently. From left, volunteers who helped on moving day include Jim Palmer, Tim Maxwell, Willie Perez, and Bob Kelsey from Riverhead Building Supply and Amagansett Building Materials. Dawn Zimmerman is seen with the desk drawers and, to the right, is Chris Becker, senior vice president of the bank.

Doug Kuntz

full-day programs operating at more than one site, like the Southampton one, believing them to be more cost-effective.

The situation for families has been particularly difficult this year, Dr. Ficano said, because "decisions and placements have been made at the midnight hour." So far, four children from East Hampton have been placed

at the St. Charles program.

"The state has been moving toward a less restrictive environment" for as many children as possible, she said. "I'm not anti-inclusion, but placement should not be based on availability."

"I'd be naive to say that cost was not a factor," she added.

SUSAN ROSENBAUM

Fiscal Woes Turn Special Education Upside Down

By MERYL SPIEGEL

LIKE many youngsters throughout Long Island, two young boys on the East End, both named Zachary, entered preschool early in September.

But for Zachary Berger, 4, who has a cyst pressing against his brain and requires speech, physical and occupational therapy, his new school, the Child Development Center (C.D.C.) in East Hampton, was his third preschool in three years. And for Zachary Kerr, 3, who has Down syndrome, the newly developed program tailored for children with disabilities was to be his second early learning experience.

It is not uncommon for parents to experiment with preschools, but in these two cases, the families were pleased with their sons' previous full-day program at the Eastern Suffolk Board of Cooperative Education Services (Boces) preschool in Westhampton and Southampton. But, earlier this year, they were informed that the 20-year-old preschool, one of the most renowned on Long Island, would shut down because of financial problems.

Furthermore, some parents discovered in June that although the state and county would continue to pay for full-day programs for their

children, C.D.C., a new special education preschool and the first one in their area, was certified for a half-day program only. Another alternative was St. Charles Early Intervention Program in Southampton, affiliated with St. Charles Hospital in Port Jefferson. But until July, it had offered an integrated program only, which some parents did not think was right for their children.

While the closing of the Eastern Suffolk Boces preschool has been disruptive and dis-

appointing to families dependent on the program, especially for those on the East End who have children with severe disorders like Down syndrome, autism and cerebral palsy, its termination reflects fiscal problems plaguing the publicly funded programs and cost-cutting measures by the state, forcing many providers to change their programs.

In many cases, these changes do not sit well with parents or administrators in the field. Figures provided by the State Department of

Education show that 6,500 children in Nassau and Suffolk Counties were enrolled in certified special education preschools in 1995.

In August 1996, an amendment to Education Law 4410, part of the Preschool Reform Bill, was passed, ordering each approved preschool education program with self-contained classrooms devoted to disabled children to redirect, over two years, 25 percent of these students to settings with age-appropriate peers without disabilities. To date, potentially 42 programs on Long Island would be affected by the ruling, according to the Long Island regional division of the State Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities.

In a phone interview from Albany, Lawrence C. Gloeckler, state deputy commissioner of the disabilities office, said: "We would like to see children with disabilities integrated with nondisabled peers to the greatest extent possible. New York runs the most segregated program in the United States. The Governor is interested in having children educated in the least restrictive environment."

Although Mr. Gloeckler believed that more and more children with special needs are being identified because of better detection or because of an increase in birth defects owing to parental substance abuse, he said it did not explain the "dramatic growth we are seeing."

Mr. Gloeckler said the state program, with a projected \$927 million cost for 1997-98, was "mushrooming and growing." The budget was \$327 million for 1990-91, according to figures provided by the department.

After conducting studies, the state and counties that finance the program became alarmed about the number of children with lesser disabilities who were being wrongly



Zachary Kerr, left, and Kevin Salvatore, who attend the developmentally disabled learning program at Most Holy Trinity School in East Hampton, take a break.

Lois Raimondo for The New York Times

Continued on Page 4

Fiscal Woes Changing Special Education

Continued From Page 1

evaluated and misplaced in full-time, segregated classrooms that they may not have required, the deputy commissioner said. "Portions of the day for some children were filling day care needs," he said.

Mr. Gloeckler went on to say that the system "didn't have the proper checks and balances." In some cases, professionals, perhaps a psychologist or speech therapist, who were evaluating these children were placing them in the same preschool that employed them.

State officials contend that half of the children who were not going on to kindergarten and most likely would have continued in the now defunct Boces program, 150 out of 300 students, have been appropriately placed in other programs.

"Our office has received zero phone calls from school districts or parents with problems," said Steve Berman, supervisor of the Long Island division of the State Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities.

However, to fill gaps for their sons, the Berger and Kerr families, along with 10 others at the nonprofit East Hampton center, have elected to pay \$3,500 for a 10-month enrichment program. In order to "keep five full days like Boces," Kate Kerr, the mother of 3-year-old Zachary, said that she and her husband, Blake, a physician, are willing to pay for the extra time. However, she added that she is concerned that most people are not in the same financial position.

"Schools should not be charging for these services," Mr. Berman said. He added that the school districts who inform his office had not notified him that parents were paying for additional programs.

There is also concern that the two remaining Boces preschool programs, in Nassau and western Suffolk, will ultimately encounter the same fate as the East End program. "I don't see how they can make it if they are looking at the same rate formula," said James Fogerty, the director of instructional programs for Eastern Suffolk Boces, who managed the preschool program.

In a phone interview from his Patchogue office, Mr. Fogerty said the program closed because "we couldn't run it financially."

"Once the office pays the program's bills and waits for reimbursement from the government, which sometimes takes up to two years," the director said, the deficit for 1996-97 will be "somewhere around \$400,000."

In addition to carrying millions of dollars of debt while the agency waited to get reimbursed for its expenses, Mr. Fogerty said the rate paid by the government did not differentiate for the extent of a child's disability. Providers are paid a flat rate per child per day, regardless of their needs, he said. So Boces was paid the same rate for a child requiring multiple services five days per week as one who received one type of therapy three times a week.

Saying that his program closed before having to deal with the new state directive, the Boces manager criticized the changes, saying, "The new system is worse than the old, so we got out."

He also questioned its effect on the children. "Putting them in an integrated setting, such as attaching a program to a nursery school," Mr. Fogerty said, "is that really a pro-



Lois Raimondo for The New York Times

Some of the children attending a special education program at **Most Holy Trinity School Child Development Center**

haphazard service?"

Russell Riggio, the executive director of special education for Nassau Boces, said in a phone interview that there was a broad debate behind the scenes regarding "the efficacy of preschool special education."

The issue is "do we think preschool education for disabled children makes sense?" he asked.

Referring to the new state ruling, Mr. Riggio said early in September that the future of these programs depends on each agency's willing-

ness.

The administrator pointed out that self-contained programs are still being authorized. Two were recently approved for the St. Charles program in Southampton for "those kids in Boces who required a full-time program," he said.

Despite the Education Department's positive statements about these measures, administrators and parents are distressed about changes that they feel are short-changing children.

Marie Ficano, the executive director of the St. Charles Early Intervention Program, serving more than 250 disabled children in Port Jefferson and Southampton, is concerned that the two new segregated classrooms on the East End, with a limited capacity of 18 spots, will be filled within a month, and then the state will have to reevaluate the situation for the area.

She also worries that as the programs are reduced overall, the children will have less time to socialize with their peers and develop the language skills that so many lack. She said she had been forced to close classrooms and move many children from a full-day to a half-day program in Port Jefferson.

For educators and parents, the issue may come down to paying now or paying more later. Without adequate preschool special education, Dr. Ficano said, it will be much more difficult and costly to mainstream the children in elementary school.

"Prior to this business plan," she said, "there has always been a continuum of services, and we move them when they are ready. Our goal is to get children to function in a day-to-day environment and to go to regular kindergarten. It seems we are always viewed as the bad guys."

Philip Turitz, the father of a 5-year-old boy with speech and language problems who is enrolled in the C.D.C. in East Hampton, said in a phone interview that the changes are fiscally short-sighted on the part of Gov. George E. Pataki and his administration. His wife, Lisa, said that she feared that her family, which

ago, would have to relocate to find the right program for her son because the state would not adequately support the new school.

Dawn Zimmerman, the founder of C.D.C., who lives in Amagansett, said she was motivated to start the new program because of the dearth of special education preschools east of Westhampton for her autistic son. She said she liked the Boces program, but was disturbed that her 3-year-old and others like him were spending so much time on the bus traveling there each day.

Initially, she applied for a full-day program for the East Hampton center and state approval for a \$1.2 million budget. At the end of June, the program was finally certified for a half-day program at a rate of \$63.89 per child per day, which translates into a \$600,000 budget.

"It's an impossible rate to run a program," said Ms. Zimmerman, in the hall of a church school building where she rents four classrooms and has begun her preschool with 20 disabled children. By the end of the year, she is confident the 38 half-day spots approved by the state will be filled.

Ms. Zimmerman said she was counting on fund-raising. To date, the fledgling school has raised \$90,000. One well-publicized effort last summer involved an auction of teapots, hand-painted by artists and celebrities.

Ms. Zimmerman hopes to expand her program by building a \$5 million building serving children with special needs, from birth to 21 years old. Ronald Perelman, head of Revlon, has pledged \$500,000 toward the effort, and the Town of East Hampton has offered C.D.C. a low-cost, long-term lease on eight acres of municipal property.

The reason that private, nonprofit preschools like C.D.C. are able to survive is that they do not have the constraints of Boces programs, which must contend with union contracts and are not permitted to raise money, said Mr. Fogerty of Eastern Suffolk Boces. But "even the private sector eventually dries up," he

Attempts at mainstreaming upset parents.

ness to comply. Nassau Boces' first business plan was rejected, he said. He submitted a second and "is now waiting to hear."

From the State Education Department's office in Lindenhurst, Mr. Berman said the object of the legislation was not to reduce the size of the program but to provide these services in less restrictive settings. But cuts in enrollment or services may result, he said, and ultimately, it will depend on the provider's motivation to find alternative ways of providing the services.

Although business plans from some providers are way overdue, the supervisor said the number of integrated programs has grown dramatically this year on Long Island as a result. "Our belief and hope is that they will meet the needs of kids," he said.

In some cases, adjunct special education services are being incorporated into a regular Head Start, preschool or day care center. For example, a special education teacher may enter a typical classroom to