



EDUCATION

Play & Learn celebrates 30 years of excellence

In 1981, a team of early educators and psychologists established the first Play & Learn center in Fort Washington.

"We started out with five staff members and 21 toddlers and preschool children," said Judith Cooper, Play & Learn's executive director.

Today, Play & Learn has 10 locations throughout Montgomery County. More than 220 Play & Learn staff members provide high-quality early education to more than 1,100 children from six weeks to six years old.

"We are proud of our long history of service to the local community," Cooper said. "We have grown and expanded but have always been guided by our mission to care for each child's individual needs. We also recognize the needs of working families, and we are one of the few child care organizations in the area offering flexible, personalized scheduling options for all age groups."

Angela Phillips, a parent of two children who attended Play & Learn from infancy

through kindergarten, said she had a wonderful experience at Play & Learn.

"As babies, my children were in a cheerful environment where I knew they were loved and well taken care of. As they grew, they were always happy and excited to go to school. They still talk about their experience at Play & Learn and often ask to go back and visit," she said.

Play & Learn has continued to grow and develop throughout the past 30 years. This year, Play & Learn is integrating SMART boards into all centers, transforming learning and increasing student involvement. Play & Learn has also launched a fantastic nutrition program, developed an outstanding staff recognition program and has made it possible for all directors and staff to be involved in continuing education. Play & Learn is committed to providing its children with the most up-to-date learn-



ing environment and experiences.

To celebrate Play & Learn's 30th anniversary, each of the 10 centers will be creating arts and crafts to display throughout the buildings. Teachers are also putting together "30 reasons why we like Play & Learn" with cute responses from kids. In addition, each center will be holding a big celebration party, which will include dancing, balloons and cake.

"We are proud of our 30 years and plan to celebrate with our families!" Cooper said.

For more information on Play & Learn, our programs and locations, call 215-643-4142 or 610-489-9598 or visit www.playandlearn.com.