

Play & Learn Celebrates Week of the Young Child

Dr. Haim Ginott author of *Between Parent and Child* said it with humor; “Children are like wet cement, whatever falls on them makes an impression.” It is important that as parents, educators and friends, we do our best to give the children of today a good foundation for becoming leaders of tomorrow.

The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association. The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to honor young children, thank teachers who make a difference in young children's lives and bring the community together to celebrate.

Throughout the week, 10 Play & Learn centers located throughout Montgomery County celebrated young children, their families and teachers with special events and activities. Activities included homemade pins with the children's picture or artwork for their parents to wear to celebrate their child; parent and teacher appreciation luncheons; family nights at local restaurants including Peace A Pizza in Warrington and Bryn Mawr and Chuck E Cheese in North Wales; friendship day; ice cream parties; pajama day and more!

Play & Learn Preschool located in Fort Washington celebrated with a “Parents as Teachers” event, inviting parents to join the class to read stories, do science demonstrations and talk about their careers. One parent brought along her pony Rio and miniature horse Gee Gee to teach the children about being a responsible pet owner, how to care for the animals on a daily basis and the joy that they bring to people. The children were delighted to spend time with Rio and Gee Gee, feeding them apples and carrots and petting them like crazy.

Play & Learn located in Collegeville celebrated by participating in the Pajama Program, an organization dedicated to providing children who are waiting to be adopted with new pajamas and books. The children were thrilled to donate pajamas and they all celebrated by ending the week with a pajama day, wearing their favorite pajamas to school.

Play & Learn located in Blue Bell celebrated with a “Turn off the TV Night,” encouraging families to spend quality time together away from the television, enjoying outdoor activities, sing a longs, games and more.

Play & Learn provides early childhood education to children ages six weeks through six years. Our mission is to provide children with a safe and secure environment where they can learn about themselves and their world through play. For more information about Play & Learn and how you can become a part of this great organization, contact 215-643-4142 and visit www.playandlearn.com.

Photo Caption: The children at Play & Learn Preschool in Fort Washington enjoy learning about and spending time with Rio and Gee Gee.

