



Arlington Area Childcare, Inc.

An Early Childhood Education Center

Arlington Area Child Care 2023 Annual Report

As the new Executive Director of Arlington Area Childcare Inc. I am excited to write this Annual Report for you, highlighting all the fantastic accomplishments of the center as well as explaining our areas of need at this time.

In 2023, 68 students from Arlington, Sunderland, Sandgate, and neighboring towns attended our program part-time or full-time. These children (aged six weeks- twelve years old) attended either our Early Education program, our Afterschool program, or our Summer Camp.

Accomplishments:

- Maintained our 4 STARS with the State of Vermont.
- Completing SEED AND SEW and becoming accredited through the company.
- Family Advocacy Program- We have worked hard to expand our program and added a diaper and wipes bank, as well as continuing our food shelf and adding a Christmas wish program that helped to assist three local families with Christmas essentials for their families.
- Fundraisers- Our center has worked hard in the last year to continue our essential annual fundraisers to help benefit the children within our program, such as Mac and Cheese, Pizza fundraiser, and Cheesecake fundraiser. Our staff, board, and families all unite to make this fundraiser successful.
- Staff Growth- We currently have 11 teachers enrolled in CCV, in either college courses or the Fundamentals for Early Childhood Professionals course to further their education. We also offer half- and full-day training to help our current staff members earn 30 professional development hours annually. We currently have all qualified staff working in-house. We have been able to offer our staff more competitive pay and time off as well.

- We launched a new Curriculum (Frog Street). Since 1989 — Serving early childhood educators for over 30 years - make learning joyful and purposeful. **Frog Street** provides the path to a bright tomorrow with engaging programs and materials.
- Camp Community Connections- This past Summer, we were excited to have our School Ageders for the entire summer time with around 20 campers per day. The campers engaged in many different enrichment programs. To highlight one, the Utica Zoo did an interactive presentation with our campers about three different types of animals. Our camp is the only one in our area for summer with a waiting list (a mile long). This is an essential program for our community. Vermont Afterschool has awarded a 40,000.00 grant to enhance our summer program to meet its full potential.
- We are currently partnering with many different community and state programs such as First Children Finance, Let's Grow Kids, VTAEYC, Vermont Afterschool, Building Bright Futures, Directors group of Bennington County, Arlington Area Alliance, NAEYC TEACH, and CCV.

Despite these strengths and accomplishments, Arlington Area Childcare faces severe concerns. Our building, which is 25 years old, needs significant renovations. Some of the most crucial needs relate to our HVAC system, duct work, and updating appliances so they can run more frugally, safely, and efficiently. As a result, we are forced to ask for increased funding from the towns we serve. The contribution from Sandgate has remained the same for many years, but, unfortunately, our expenses (like those of many other businesses) have grown. For Arlington Area Childcare to continue providing a quality setting for Sandgate children and families, we seek \$1000.00 from the town of Sandgate. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you, again, to the area communities for continuing to support our program, special events, and fundraisers. We couldn't keep the program running without you!