Learning to read is the single most important activity in a child’s education. Studies show that children who read at home are better prepared to succeed in formal education. PARP-Pick A Reading Partner is a program that asks parents (or any adults who play an important role in a child’s life) to read with their children for at least fifteen minutes daily, stressing the fact that reading can be fun as well as informative.

This year our PARP program was expanded to the whole month of March. Families were invited to participate in our Pirate PARP in as many ways as they could. A calendar was sent home with suggested daily activities, other than reading, for families to enjoy.

In keeping with the PARP pirate theme, teacher Nicole Coscia in Dix Hills, had her students make boats at home to bring to school. The children then tested their boats to see if they would sail and float, blowing them with straws and using turkey basters to create wind.

As you can see the kids had a great time! Shiver Me Timbers! Reading is Fun!

This past Fall, Alternatives For Children’s Aquebogue and Southampton locations began the lengthy process of obtaining a QualityStarsNY Child Care facility rating. The qualifying application has been accepted and we have received notice from QualityStarsNY congratulating our program on receiving a 4 Star Provisional Rating.

Staff at our East End locations will now prepare for a QualityStarsNY assessor to physically observe each room to evaluate it on the many known indicators of quality requirements outlined in the Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) tool.

An arduous process for sure, but well worth the time and effort of our staff. With a QualityStarsNY rating, it is not us, but an independent evaluator, saying to the community and our parents that Alternatives For Children provides quality care.
Dear Friends,

These are uncertain economic times for not-for-profits like us. Now more than ever Alternatives For Children is in need of your support. We wait on the NYS budget and any changes in federal Education Department regulations that determine funding for the essential programs we provide annually to more than 500 children and their families. We invite you to seriously consider becoming a sponsor of, or playing in our Golf & Tennis Outing this year. We are also asking you to help us in expanding our reach by extending your personal invitation to like-minded people, colleagues and friends, and asking them to join with us in Making a Difference in the Life of a Child with Special Needs! As Helen Keller said, “Alone We Can Do So Little. Together We Can Do So Much.” As always, thank you for your generous support! See you on June 1st!

Huntington Crescent Club Golf Course
Featuring 6,403 yards of golf for a par 70

Test out your Wimbledon skills on the grass tennis courts

We need your help in soliciting items for our Basket Raffle & Silent Auctions which are a BIG part of our Golf Outing!
Gift Cards/Gift Certificates to your favorite Restaurant, Beauty/Nail Salon, Day Spa, Gym

Golf Items/Gift Certificates to a favorite Golf Course
Tickets for Sporting Events
Thank you for your Support!
Contact Susan Ennis at 631-6400 ext. 229

Each year, Alternatives For Children is required to notify parents of their rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act regulations (FERPA) to:
• Inspect and review the student’s education records.
• Seek amendment to the student’s education records that the parent believes to be inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights.
• Consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records.

Alternatives For Children will comply with a request for access to records within forty-five days of a received request and respond to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of records. If a parent believes the education records relating to the student contain information that is inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the student’s rights of privacy, he or she may ask Alternatives for Children to amend the record.

For More Information on FERPA and your rights as parents visit our website
www.alternatives4children.org/confidentiality-parents-rights.html

Alternatives for Children will work together with families to answer any questions, and help access information needed.
ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN
12TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Huntington Crescent Club
Thursday, June 1, 2017
15 Washington Drive • Huntington • NY 11743

Name _______________________________________ Company Name________________________________
Address______________________________________City_____________________State_______Zip________
Phone________________________________________Email________________________________________

Make Checks payable to Alternatives For Children 14 Research Way East Setauket, NY 11733
Credit Cards accepted - Visa, Master Card, American Express
REGISTER ONLINE on or before May 20th at www.alternatives4children.org/golf

Sponsorship Opportunities

Platinum Sponsor - $5,000
Awards Dinner Sponsor
◊ Golf foursome with caddy
◊ Prominent corporate signage at venue
◊ Sponsor Board
◊ Hole Sign
◊ Four additional guests for dinner
◊ Affinity Membership
  Donor Wall, Newsletter Mention

Gold Sponsor - $2,850
Barbeque Lunch Sponsor
◊ Golf foursome with caddy
◊ Prominent corporate signage at venue
◊ Sponsor Board
◊ Hole Sign

Silver Sponsor - $1,500
Registration Sponsor
◊ Play for one golfer
◊ Prominent corporate signage at venue
◊ Sponsor Board

Hole in One Sponsor - $500
◊ Company name on Hole in One Sign

Hole Sponsor - $325
◊ Company name on Hole Sign

Day’s Events
10:30 am Registration
11:30 am Brunch
12:30 pm Shotgun start
5:00 pm Cocktail Hour & Dinner to Follow
Silent Auction & Basket Raffle

I will bring a foursome to this year’s outing,
$1,600 foursome entry fee enclosed,
$620 tax deductible. Includes brunch, dinner,
greens fee, cart, caddy, putting contest for four.

I will play in this year’s outing, $400 individual entry
fee enclosed, $155 tax deductible. Includes brunch
derinner, greens fee, cart, caddy, putting contest.

I will play in this year’s tennis tournament, $275
individual entry fee enclosed, $95 tax deductible.
Includes brunch, dinner, tennis play, use of equipment,
one-hour clinic with the club’s 2 tennis pros.

I will sponsor a hole in this year’s event,
$325 enclosed per hole sponsorship,
fully tax deductible

I will sponsor a Hole in One in this year’s event,
$500 per Hole in One sponsorship, fully tax deductible

I will be an event sponsor for this year’s Outing
  Platinum Sponsor $5,000
  ($3,720 tax deductible)
  Gold Sponsor $2,850
  ($1,950 tax deductible)
  Silver Sponsor $1,500
  ($1,275 tax deductible)

Dinner only @ $125 per person = ________

I cannot attend, but please accept my donation of
$ ____________________________
TOTAL $ ___________________
Recently, Alternatives For Children Dix Hills began a collaboration with Western Suffolk BOCES’ Center for Alternative Education at the Wilson Technological Center in Dix Hills. Alternatives For Children, under contract with BOCES, is providing child care services for the children of female teen parents who are continuing their education.

The Wilson Tech Center provides for students ages 16 to 21, who have an insufficient number of credits to graduate high school. These young women enroll in a five-step program, which helps prepare them to take examinations for graduation. Small classes and individual instruction helps these students progress at their own pace. These young women can also take advantage of career and technical education programs offered at Wilson Tech or participate in a cooperative work experience, gaining essential life skills and preparing them for the possibility of future employment.

With over twenty-nine years of early childhood experience, Alternatives For Children is able to offer quality care for these babies, toddlers and young children. These young mothers can then concentrate on continuing their education knowing that their children are in a caring and safe natural learning environment where they are receiving the best care and are being encouraged to become independent, self-confident, and curious learners.

**Week Of the Young Child** is an opportunity for our school to be part of an annual event sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the world's largest early education association. The purpose of WOYC is to recognize that the early childhood years lay the foundation for a child’s success in school and later in life.

This year our WOYC theme at all our schools was, Watch It Grow - Plants We Eat, and was all about STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math, but mostly science!) The children spent the week doing hands-on science work; exploring seeds and planting; learning songs and poems about plants; were involved in a multitude of sensory activities mostly involving DIRT and getting messy; reading books about seeds, plants, vegetables, fruits and so much more!

Our families got involved at home, with suggestions from staff, on some fun educational science and literacy activities for the children and their parents to do together. Families were encouraged to expand their meals by trying some new vegetables and fruits. We asked families to take a walk in the great outdoors and see what plants they could discover and decide whether or not you can eat the plant! And, as we do with any of our special curriculum events, we encouraged families to go to their local library, get their child their very own library card, check out some books, and take advantage of all the great resources and literacy activities available at our public libraries; instilling again the idea that literacy and reading are lifetime adventures!
Last October, Eric Kramer of Boy Scout Troop 309 Dix Hills contacted Vivienne Viera Curriculum Coordinator at Alternatives For Children Dix Hills, and proposed to her his Eagle Scout Project that would benefit the students. Eric’s project was to include in the preschool playground permanent hardscape installations that would create a stimulus enriched environment for the children.

Eric visited our East Setauket location to find inspiration for his project. He was taken with the pergola, where many sets of wind chimes hang, and the thunder wall. Eric, with the help of his Eagle Scout Project coach, reimagined and redesigned these elements to fit into the Dix Hills playground.

On a sunny Sunday in April, Eric, along with eight other Scouts and some adult suggestion makers, brought his vision of a planting garden and auditory sound rich space for the children to life.

We are so thankful to Eric, and are proud to partner with him on his road to Eagle Scout! A young man displaying exemplary leadership skills and commendable community service!

Did you know that brightly colored vegetables and fruits can be the “superstars” in every meal and snack! Our teachers do! While most toddlers consume enough fruits and vegetables, most children four years and older do not.

Teachers at Alternatives For Children Southampton took advantage of all the children were learning about fruits and vegetables to sneak in some health and nutrition on the side. Teaching healthy eating habits children will use for life is hard! Convincing picky eaters that fruits and vegetables are good for you is tough. But, as part of our WOYC celebration, fruits and vegetables were the central characters in a fun filled week of exploring and learning.
A “petting zoo” of a different kind was a treat for some of our classes in East Setauket when members of the SUNY Stony Brook Music Department came for a visit. The students, both old and young, “played” through a series of rhythm games using - hands for clapping, fingers for snapping, feet for stomping and rhythm sticks for making LOUD and soft sounds. The children were introduced to members of the string, woodwind, brass and percussion families of the orchestra. Then came time for the real hands-on experience - using fingers to cover the holes on the clarinet - slide the slide on the trombone - bow on and pluck the strings of the bass and violin. Although, the children all agreed their FAVORITE was the theremin. Don’t know what it is? Look it up!

How exciting to get to SEE - HEAR - TOUCH some of the instruments that make up an orchestra!
Bass - Violin - Clarinet - Trombone - Rain Stick - Bells - Theremin

Many thanks to Miss Nancy of the Sweet Briar Nature Center for visiting us and teaching us all about dinosaurs and reptiles! We learned about the extinction of dinosaurs and the fossils that were left behind. We became science detectives through hands-on observation of the tools paleontologists use to dig for fossils and getting to touch and feel real fossils. Then, we got to meet some real live descendants of the dinosaurs!

Dinosaurs! Ancestors of the Reptiles!
From Trilobites to Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches! Bearded Dragons to Box Turtles. They are all reptiles. They all lay eggs! They were all alive in the time of the dinosaurs!

WOW! We are Learning SO MUCH!
Thank You to eVero Corporation for "adopting" two of our families and making it a brighter holiday for some very special children! eVero Corporation has had a tremendous impact on many families at Alternatives For Children. For the past several years they have partnered with Alternatives For Children as a major sponsor of our Holiday Wish Program - providing joy and happiness in the form of holiday gifts, toys, clothing, and other necessities for hundreds of our families. Alone we could not provide for all, but with eVero’s help, families in need were assisted this past Holiday season!

Staff from all our locations also chipped in, providing gifts, support and Holiday Cheer!

Our Thanks to . . .

Adelberg & Montalvan Pediatric Dental
Hampton Pediatric Dental Associates

LIKE & Follow us on Facebook!

development info & lots of developmental activities
Tell your friends!
https://www.facebook.com/AlternativesForChildren/

Alternatives For Children
21st Annual Classic & Sports Car Rally

Save The Date
Saturday September 16, 2017
SAVE THE DATE
12th Annual Golf Outing

Thursday, June 1, 2017
Huntington Crescent Club

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN
WHAT PARENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT US

This has been an amazing year! We can’t thank his teacher enough and his IEP Coordinator for always placing him in his best interest.

I appreciate the constant communication. Thank you for supporting my son! You rock!

We have loved all of the support & care while attending Alternatives. We could not be happier.

www.facebook.com/AlternativesForChildren/