

Fall Center Newsletter

A message from the Executive Director



Happy fall, My Place families! ☐

One of my favorite parts of this past year has been sneaking into classrooms during the day—jumping into dramatic play adventures, cheering on new letters being learned, listening to exciting stories being read, and of course, rocking babies. Those little moments are what I'll miss the most, and they're also what make My Place such a joyful place to be.

As our programs keep growing (tripling after school—wow!), this is the perfect time for My Place to welcome a full-time Executive Director. I'll be sticking around to help with the transition, and I'm so excited to see all the big ideas and dreams we've shared come to life this year.

Thank you for letting me be part of your families—it's been such a gift!

With gratitude,
Nancy ☐

A message from the Center Program Director



▯ Fall at My Place ▯

As the leaves begin to change and a crispness fills the air, we're embracing the new season with fresh energy, cozy classroom activities, and a continued commitment to growth, learning, and connection. Fall is a time of reflection and community, and here at My Place, we're proud to be the only licensed childcare center in Schuyler County—serving children from 6 weeks to 12 years of age across two nurturing, educational locations.

Our mission remains at the heart of all we do: to be the pillar of childcare in Schuyler County by providing children and families with quality care and meaningful educational experiences. Whether we're exploring nature on a leaf hunt, creating autumn-themed crafts, or celebrating community traditions, every moment is an opportunity to inspire curiosity, build relationships, and create lasting memories.

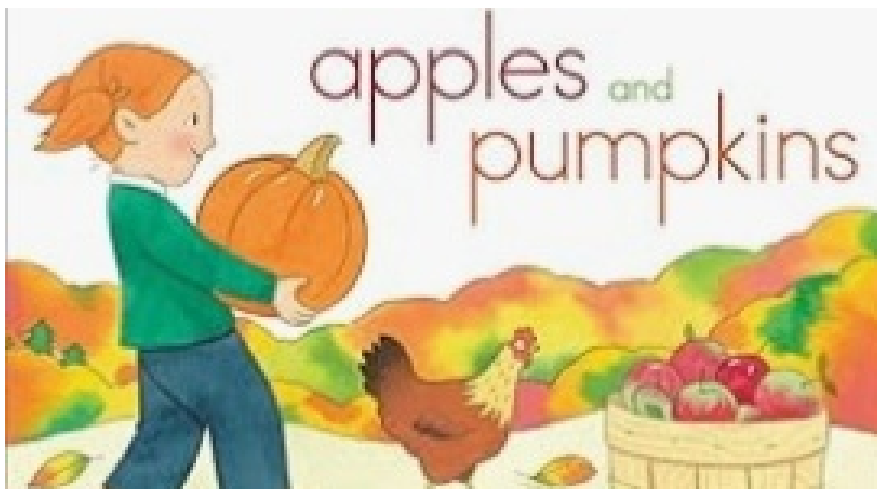
We will continue to place a strong emphasis on early literacy. From infant board books and toddler story time to preschool writing centers and storytelling activities, our classrooms are full of rich language experiences that help children develop essential skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. We encourage families to support this focus by reading together at home and asking children about their favorite books or songs from the classroom. Be on the lookout for Scholastic Book Flyers coming home to help build your at-home libraries and check out the weekly vocabulary words on classroom lesson plans.

▯ Mark your calendars! Our biggest fundraising event of the year—FLXGives—is just around the corner! FLXGives is a 24-hour online giving event that supports nonprofit organizations across the Finger Lakes region. This year's event will take place November 13-14, and we need your help to make it a success. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates, and please help us spread the word by liking, commenting, and sharing our posts. Every donation—big or small—helps strengthen our mission and make a lasting impact for our children and families.

Thank you for being part of our My Place family. We are grateful for your partnership and look forward to all the learning, laughter, and seasonal fun ahead!

With gratitude,
Noel Wheaton

▯ Cozy Up With Fall Books! ▯

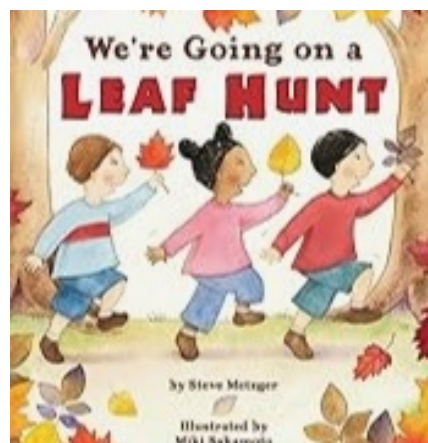
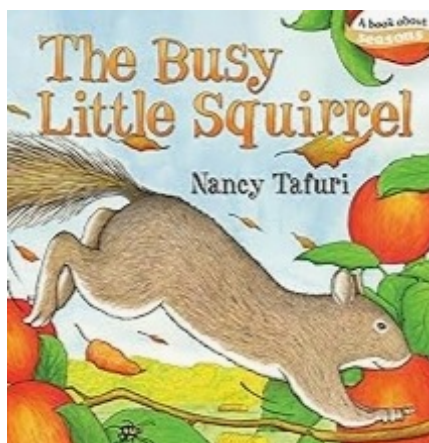
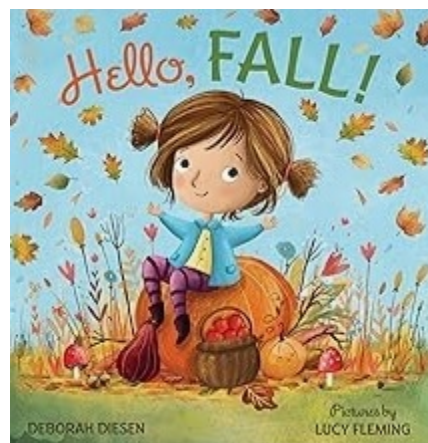


Fall is the perfect season to snuggle up with a good book! Here are some of our favorite fall-themed reads to enjoy with your child at home:

- Infants: *Fall* by Roger Priddy, *Hello, Fall!* by Deborah Diesen
- Toddlers: *The Busy Little Squirrel* by Nancy Tafuri, *Apples and Pumpkins* by Anne Rockwell
- Preschoolers: *We're Going on a Leaf Hunt* by Steve Metzger, *Fletcher and the Falling Leaves* by Julia Rawlinson

Reading together not only builds language skills but also creates special family moments.

□ Family Tip: Create a cozy fall reading nook at home with a blanket, a basket of books, and maybe even a few leaves or pumpkins for decoration. Pair your reading time with a seasonal activity—like a nature walk to collect colorful leaves to use as bookmarks!



A message from the Infant Team

Lead Teacher - Abbi
Teacher Aides - Tammy & Galina



This summer, infants have been busy meeting new friends, developing fine and gross motor skills through play, and learning every single day. We enjoyed some fun in the sun, water play, and time with each other as we help assist in the development of our little friends. This fall, we will continue to develop gross motor and fine motor skills as we grow. We will also continue to create an environment that assists in their social-emotional development as it is crucial for the healthy development for our little friends. Activities like reading, mirror play, interactive tummy time, and singing songs are just a few of the fun things we will be doing to assist in this development. We can not wait to see where fall takes us and how much our friends have grown!

A message from the Waddler Team

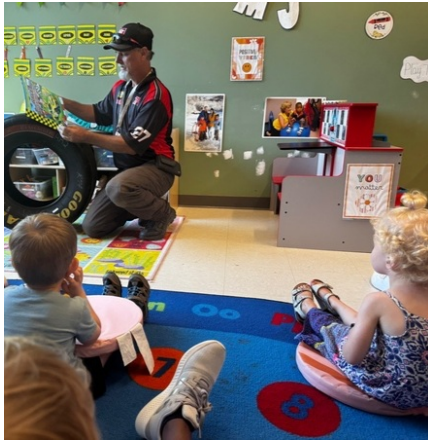
Lead Teacher - Ashley
Assistant Teacher - Mackenzie
Teacher Aide - Rebecca



This summer we had loads of fun outside and were able to showcase our skills through play. We incorporated more sensory activities into our daily routine as well as using fine motor skills to create fun crafts! We enjoyed long buggy rides and exploring different senses while on our walks through town. I am excited for the new fall season and the cooler weather. We will continue to practice "gentle hands" as during this developmental stage, it can be a struggle for most kiddos. Demonstrating this through play and modeling gentle hands is very important. On another note, As the seasons change and these kids are ever growing, we have said goodbye to our older ones and will soon say hello to new friends! Excited for all the new changes, can't wait!

A message from the Tiny Tots Team

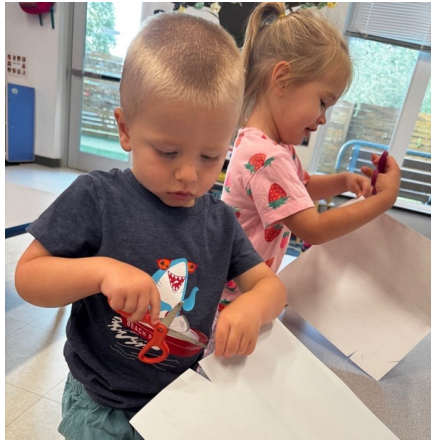
Lead Teacher - Bria
Assistant Teacher - Bre



Our friends in Three School have been super busy building their brains and bodies! Through fine motor (name and letter tracing, building with Legos, Playdoh, etc.), gross motor play, social-emotional learning, walks to the lake and around our neighborhood, each day has been a different adventure! We've also been working hard to talk about our emotions and finding safe and healthy ways to express how we're feeling or what to do when we're needing a little space. We have 2 calm down corners filled with sensory bottles, cozy blankets, soft pictures, and visuals to help us learn to calm our bodies! Circle time has been a great way for us to work on our counting skills, color recognition, build our vocabulary, as well as learning about the weather!

A message from the Toddler Team

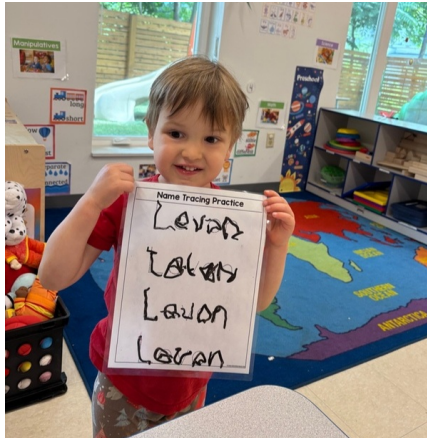
Interim Lead Teacher - Bre
Assistant Teacher - Mikayla
Teacher Aide - Sam



The toddlers have been keeping busy all summer exploring their fine motor, gross motor, social-emotional, and language skills through play, activities and hands-on learning! We have taken all of the beautiful weather opportunities to dive into some water play and go for nice walks to the lake to see what we can find! This fall we are going to be focusing on lots of number and color recognition, sensory play, hands-on activities, emotions and dramatic play to enhance all of our skills and allow us to play and have fun, all while learning and developing necessary skills! We are all so excited in the toddler room to continue on our path of learning and development to see where it takes us!!

A message from the Preschool Team

Lead Teachers - Tee & Mikayla
Assistant Teacher - Maddy
Teacher Aide - Rhonda



In our preschool classroom, we're busy building the foundations for lifelong learning through play, exploration, and connection. This fall we will focus on social-emotional skills like problem-solving, identifying and expressing our emotions, sharing with others, and making new friends. Through group activities, guided conversations, and imaginative play, the children will be learning how to navigate social situations and develop confidence in themselves. Also, we will explore hands-on experiences in motor skills, literacy, math, and science—fostering curiosity and a love for learning every day. It's so fun to watch our preschoolers grow into thoughtful, capable, and kind individuals preparing them for the next step in life!

A message from the School age program



Our program has been soaring this year with the support of the LEAPS grant! Thanks to this opportunity, we've enjoyed an amazing summer filled with memorable field trips to the Rochester Zoo, Binghamton Science and Discovery Center, Ithaca Science Center, Tanglewood Nature Center, Clute Park, and plenty of swim and hiking days at the state park. We've even been able to double our attendance and create more exciting experiences for the children in our care. As we move into the school year, our focus is on getting to know each unique student, building routines, and practicing calm-down strategies to support their growth and success. We are ready for a year full of learning, fun, and discovery together!





This fall, we're embracing the season with plenty of hands-on activities, themed weeks, and festive celebrations. From pumpkins and colorful leaves to all things Halloween, there will be so many opportunities for children to explore, create, and learn. One special highlight will be our pumpkin decorating contest, with the children's decorated pumpkins displayed at our local Tops for the community to enjoy and vote on—be sure to stop by and support their creativity! We are excited to welcome the crisp fall days ahead and can't wait to see all the wonderful things this season will bring for our program and families.

Miss. Cass, Miss. Taylor
& the SACC team

Important Dates



September 22nd - First Day of Autumn
October 27-31 - Spirit Week
October 31st - Halloween
November 11th - CENTER IS CLOSED
November 13th-14th - FLXGives - Our biggest Fundraising Event of the YEAR!!
November 27 & 28th - CENTER IS CLOSED, Happy Thanksgiving

▣ Pyramid Model Tip: Building Emotional Vocabulary This Fall ▣

As the seasons change, so do the feelings children experience—excitement for Halloween, nervousness about new routines, or even frustration with weather changes. This fall, help your child build emotional awareness by naming and talking about their feelings. Use phrases like, *"You look excited to see the leaves falling!"* or *"It's okay to feel frustrated when we can't go outside today."*

Labeling emotions helps children better understand themselves and others and is a key strategy in promoting healthy social-emotional development—one of the cornerstones of the Pyramid Model!

Did You Know?



of Schuyler County

My Place is proud to be a recipient of support from the United Way of Schuylar County!

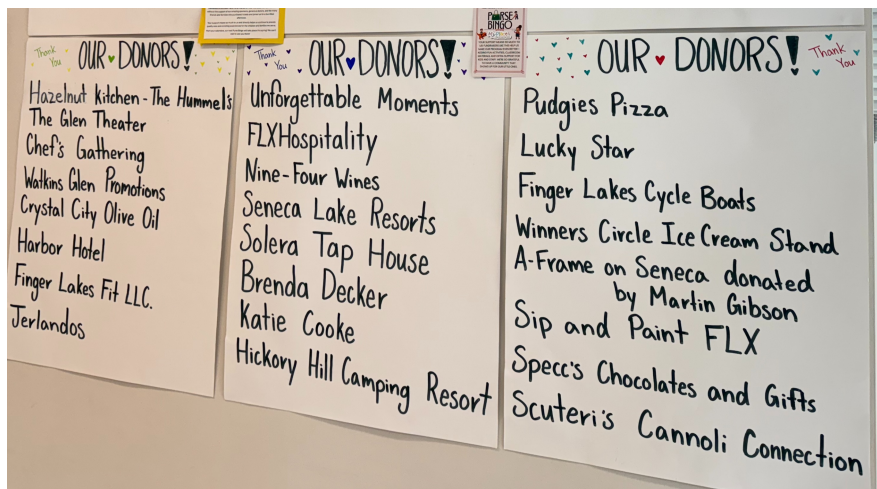
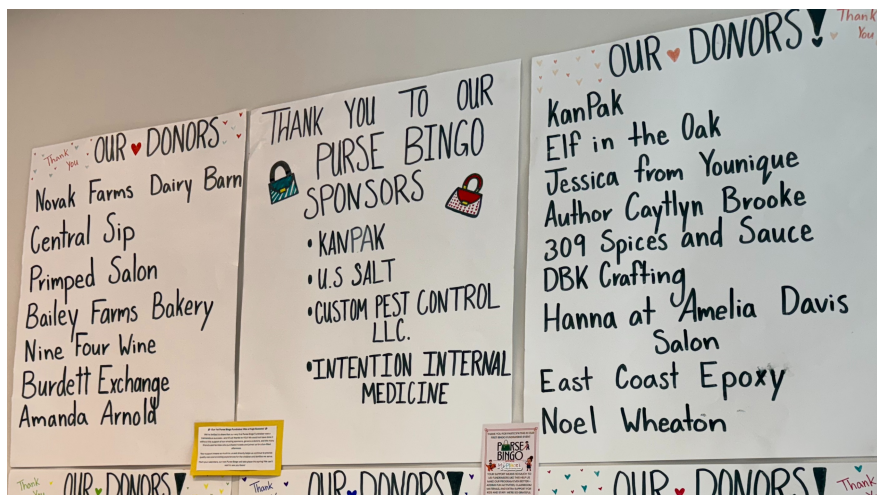
This incredible, volunteer-led organization brings together resources from non-profit, private, and public sectors to strengthen our community and support local families. We are honored to be among the programs they fund.

Thanks to their generosity, this year we received funding to purchase sensory carts and materials for each of our five classrooms! These carts are filled with tools that support self-regulation, emotional development, and hands-on learning—helping us meet the individual needs of every child in our care.

When you give to United Way or take part in their community events, you're helping programs like ours grow and thrive. We're so grateful to be part of this supportive network.

Thank you for being a part of the My Place family—and thank you for supporting organizations that help us do what we love! ♥

THANK YOU!



Thank You for Supporting Our 1st Annual Purse Bingo!



We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our 1st Annual Purse Bingo Fundraiser! With a wonderful turnout of 130 tickets sold, this event exceeded our expectations—and it was all because of you, our amazing community.

From generous donations of basket raffle items to beautiful purses and the funds to purchase them, the outpouring of support truly meant the world to us. Your kindness and involvement helped make this fundraiser a huge success, and every dollar raised goes right back into supporting the children and families we serve at My Place.

We can't wait to do it again—see you this spring for our next Purse Bingo event! □

□ Introducing Our New Fall/Winter Menu! ✨



We're excited to share that our new fall/winter menu will be in place September 29th! This seasonal update includes a variety of healthy, balanced meals and snacks to keep our children nourished and energized during the cooler months. All meals are CACFP-approved, ensuring they meet the highest standards for child nutrition. We appreciate your feedback and suggestions to help us create our new menu!

Our menu continues to feature plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and kid-approved favorites—perfect for fueling busy days of learning and play. Copies of the menu are available in each classroom, on the kitchen bulletin board, and within the ProCare app.

As always, if your child has any allergies or dietary restrictions, please let us know so we can accommodate their needs.
