

Alternatives For Children



www.alternativesforchildren.org

FALL 2013

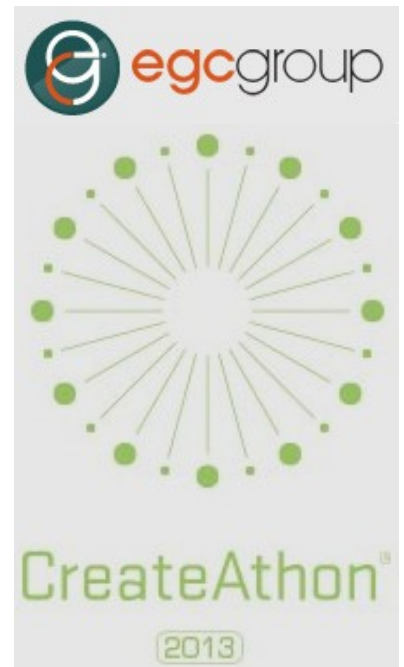
ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN RECEIVES EGC GROUP CREATEATHON 2013 GRANT

Every Fall, the EGC group, a public relations/marketing firm in Melville, shuts the agency down for 24 hours and focuses on a few select non-profits that are in need of marketing, branding, and advertising help. In those 24 hours, they develop, produce, and present campaigns for each of the non-profits to implement. This year Alternatives For Children was one of the non-profits selected for CreateAthon 2013.

Through the generosity of the EGC Group, and the unbelievable talent held within their walls, Alternatives For Children is now properly positioned to launch a much needed social media campaign. Going into the CreateAthon, one of our expressed needs was to develop a social media campaign that would drive parents, donors, and the general population to our website. The creation of an Alternatives For Children Facebook page, and the content created by the EGC social media marketing division has gotten us off to a great start; one which will be easy to maintain.

Another need going in was a complete analysis of the Alternatives For Children website. We know, (and were glad to hear from the EGC staff) that we have developed a content rich website filled with all the information needed to answer parent/consumer questions about all the programs and services we offer. Our problem was the SEO and analytics side. The EGC digital marketing division explained to us SEO best practices and has recommended some needed revisions and optimizations; doing all the work for us, priceless!

Our third need was a redesign of three of Alternatives For Children's parent/family information guides. The EGC creative division has developed three beautifully eye-catching pamphlets for use in sharing information about our General Programs, Early Intervention Program, and our Preschool Special Education Program.



*From all of us at Alternatives For Children, our thanks and appreciation to the entire EGC Group Staff!
You have wonderful people doing amazing things – and again we say – Priceless!*



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Alternatives For Children

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<https://www.facebook.com/AlternativesForChildren>

Alternatives for Children

Mission Statement

To provide the highest quality special and regular education programs and services to children with disabilities and typically developing peers.

Education, medical, pediatric rehabilitation, and support services are integrated to ensure the comprehensive needs of the child and family are met.

14 Research Way
East Setauket, NY 11733

631-331-6400

Preschool Programs

Child Day Care

Early Intervention Services

Universal Pre-K

Administrative Office

1116 Main Road
Aquebogue, NY 11931

631-722-2170

Preschool Programs

Child Day Care

Early Intervention Services

Universal Pre-K

175 Wolf Hill Road
Melville, NY 11747

631-271-0777

Preschool Programs

Child Day Care

Early Intervention Services

168 Hill Street
Southampton, NY 11968

631-283-3272

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Child Day Care

Early Intervention Services

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ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To be able to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of any company or organization is a great accomplishment. To be recognized by the educational community, our parents, and parent/alumni as a leader in providing Early



Intervention and Preschool Special Education programs and services to children with special needs and disabilities, is indeed heartwarming. In 1988, and even now, the goal of my heart is to make a far reaching impact in the lives of as many children with special needs as possible. Our mission twenty-five years ago, charged us with providing the highest quality special and regular education programs and services to children with disabilities and their typically developing peers. Amidst the ever changing regulatory and fiscal landscape, the administration, educational and therapeutic staff, together with the Board of Trustees of Alternatives For Children are committed now more than ever that these programs and services be available to the future generations of children who need it most, at the most critical time in their development, assuring that they have the tools and experiences necessary to build the foundation that will support them for the rest of their lives.

We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support for our 25th Anniversary, and so thankful to the many like-minded people, corporations and companies that showed their belief in our mission. I know that Danielle and Tim Shea, our 25th Silver Anniversary chairpersons, speak for all parents of our children when they thank you all for your generosity. The programming and services we provide for the Shea's son Brady, and all other children, could not be as comprehensive and all-encompassing without the support of our Sponsors and Donors.

Likewise, our 17th Annual Classic & Sports Car Rally saw greater participation from Sponsors and Drivers than we have seen in many years. Kudos and thanks for this great effort go to our Rally Chairperson Jim Buzzetta, Competition Automotive Group, and our Road Rally Committee.

On behalf of all of us at Alternatives For Children, we wish each of you a peace-filled and happy Holiday season and thank you for your constant support. Your choice to **Make a Difference** in the life of a child with special needs and the impact you have made on all the children's lives is priceless.

Marie E. Ficano, Ed.D.



Firefighter visits at
Melville and East Setauket

Now we know what to do and where to go if there is a fire in our house!

And, not to be afraid of the firefighters when they have on their firefighting gear!

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN MYSTERY READER

This year, Alternatives For Children put out the call, searching for Mystery Readers to share their love of reading with the children. Parents, older adult siblings, grandparents, adult relatives have been invited to read a story to their child's class. The Mystery readers are welcome to choose any age-appropriate book to read. Some readers have chosen favorite stories from their childhood, others have brought props or costumes related to their stories, and some have even chosen to bring a craft related to the story they read.



The Children in Jenn Silverman's Class in Melville had a special visit from the Children's Librarian from the South Huntington Library. Together they shared some spooky stories, sang songs, and made a magic Jack-O-Lantern!

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN SOUTHAMPTON TRANSITIONAL BILINGUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Alternatives For Children Southampton Bilingual teacher Jenn Ronca created a Reading Hut for her classroom, and she couldn't wait until the children got to see it. "It is going to be a great place for them to go and build a love for reading!"



Research has demonstrated the importance of early literacy skill development in a child's dominant language, which for many of the children in Ms. Ronca's class is Spanish. An individual program has been developed for each child, dependent upon their developmental ability and readiness to transition to English.

For information on the Alternatives For Children Southampton Bilingual Program call Donna Menna at 631-283-3272

Alternatives For Children Receives Adapted Board Books From Girl Scout Natalie Voltz

Alternatives For Children would like to thank Natalie Voltz for her donation of several adapted board books that she made for the children. These books will be a welcome resource for our teachers and therapists to use with the children. Although all the children will enjoy these adapted books, those children diagnosed with sensory deficits disorders and language delays will especially benefit from these books. These adapted books will provide our students and teachers with opportunities for interactive fun and sensory input.

We thank Natalie for the time, thought, and dedication that it took to conceive this project, reach out to us, and deliver the finished product.



Ingrid Trouvé, East Setauket Preschool Coordinator,
Natalie Voltz, Kim Massi, teacher

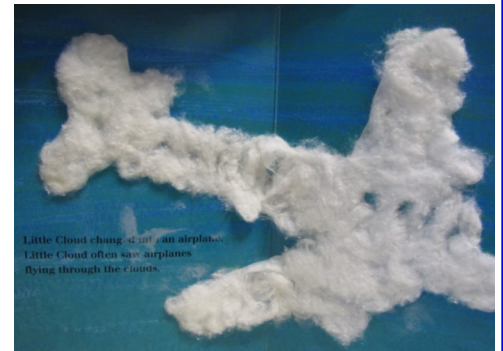
Illustrations from author Eric Carle's Books come to LIFE!



The Rooster in Eric Carle's
The Very Busy Spider
flutters his feathers chasing a fly!
How Fun!



The Bumblebee in Eric Carle's
The Very Quiet Cricket
now leaps off the page at children!
A sensory wonderland!



A page from Eric Carle's
Little Cloud comes to life
with the addition of cotton,
making the cloud spring to life.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN
FALL HAPPENINGS



East Setauket Fall Festival

Thank you to the
Occupational Therapy
Physical Therapy
Speech Therapy
Psych/SW
Departments
For this wonderful day of
educationally therapeutic Fun!



Scholastic Book Fair & Clifford the Big Red Dog Visits
Alternatives For Children East Setauket



Melville Pumpkin Patch FUN!



East Setauket Thanksgiving Feast FAMILY TIME in Miss Tracey's Room



ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN
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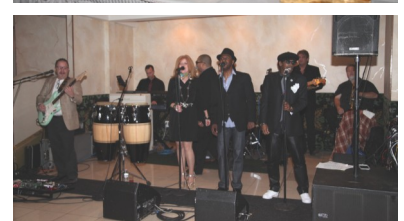
Armand Araujo

Zodiac Title Services - Maribeth Pietropaoli

APR Consulting - Diane & Anthony Rizzo

JAA Development, LLC - Joseph Annunziata

Guida Rax Inc - James P. Guida



*Many Thanks from the children of Alternatives For Children
go to our 25th Silver Anniversary Chairpersons
Danielle & J. Timothy Shea, Jr. Esq.*

25th Silver Anniversary Committee

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Susan Ennis Kelly Fronckewicz

Dr. Marie E. Ficano
George Tasso

Wendy Jorgensen
Ingrid Trouvé

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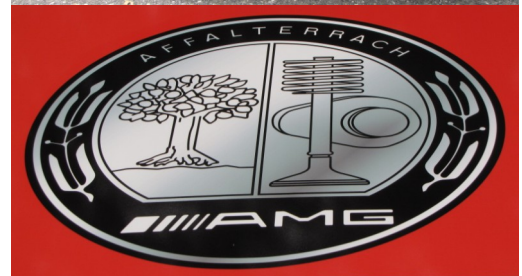


RALLY COMMITTEE

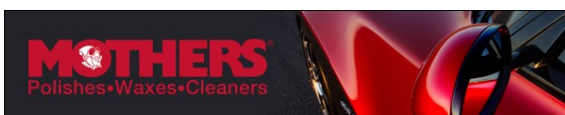
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 Swag Bag Donors



THANK YOU SPONSORS
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ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN SPECIAL PROJECTS WISH LIST

Here's how you can Make A Difference!

Choose from our Special Projects Wish List and underwrite the cost of one of our Special Projects so that more of our dollars can go directly to the children!

School House Shape Up

Our four locations, housing 400 students per year, require ongoing and annual maintenance to operate both safely and efficiently.



All those busy little fingers of the children as they walk through the halls leave our corridor walls looking somewhat less than pristine by the end of the school year. By donating to School House Shape Up your dollars could be used to ensure that we begin each school year with our classrooms and therapeutic areas looking brand spanking new!

Or, your gift could help us with the routine maintenance that our very busy outdoor playground areas require. Your gift to School House Shape Up would help underwrite some of the costs associated with typical building and grounds maintenance operating expenses.

iTech - Teaching Through Technology



In the ever changing field of Technology an amazing world has opened up for our children. All Educational Technology devices, along with software peripherals are used to reinforce concepts and themes that are geared towards attaining each child's IEP goals.

You could help fund the acquisition of much needed Technology - opening wide the doors for our children to be as current and conversant with these important technologies as their typically developing peers.

Resource Therapy Fund

Our therapists focus on integrating therapeutic approaches not only individually, but within the classroom. The Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapists assist in setting up the classroom and academic presentations which take into consideration the visual, auditory, and sensory processing needs of our students.

Your gift would provide the funding for specialized sensory materials, and/or replenish and enrich therapy program materials.



ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN AFFINITY MEMBERS

Jim Buzzetta

Merik C. Dolber

Dr. & Mrs. Fred Mendelsohn

Mark Senders

Dan Meystrik

Mike Russell

Teknow Services, LLC

**THANK YOU
AFFINITY
MEMBERS!**

Katherine Crowe

We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.

Marian Wright Edelman,
founder of the Children's Defense Fund

**SPECIAL PROJECTS WISH LIST
MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!**

Give online at

<http://www.alternatives4children.org/special-projects.html>

Alternatives For Children is a not-for-profit, 501 (c)(3) organization registered with the NYS Charities Bureau.
All donations are tax-deductible in accordance with current IRS charitable giving guidelines.



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Happy Holidays
from the
Alternatives For Children Family
to your Family!



Providing the highest quality special and regular education programs and services to children with disabilities and their typically developing peers.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CHILDREN
PARENT TESTIMONIAL

*Thank
You*

I wanted to express my appreciation to your Melville staff, in particular, Ms. Jennifer Silverman and Ms. Susan Zezima, for the wonderful progress my son has made at Alternatives. My son, Jimmy, arrived at Alternatives last February and has made amazing progress thus far. This afternoon I met with his teacher, therapists, and Ms. Gronell to review his IEP for the coming school year and received a comprehensive and detailed summary of his progress and educational goals.

I come to every meeting at the school thoroughly prepared with research and questions and always leave with satisfaction that my inquiries were fully addressed and that we made the right choice in placing our son at Alternatives For Children. We have witnessed such remarkable growth and progress with his learning and day to day activities and watch his true enjoyment in attending school and interacting with the entire staff and fellow students every day. Thanks very much.

Lynn, Jimmy's mom