

Scribbles

A Homegrown Neighborhood Preschool

Educating and Helping Children Discover Who They Are, What They Can Do, and Who They Can Become

By Arlene Aspell

Scribbles Preschool, Inc., located at the Community Church in the heart of Mountain Lakes, is celebrating its 25th Anniversary as the town of Mountain Lakes celebrates its centennial. Scribbles began as a small home-based creative arts program for "Scribblers" two to three years old, led by co-founders and Mountain Lakes residents, Mimi Lyons and Karen Schwinger.

Mountain Lakes parents encouraged us to expand to a full preschool program, serving ages two and a half to six, giving families another option when a local nursery school closed its doors. They found the perfect location for us at the neighborhood Community Church. Parents continued to be the foundation of our educational mission. With the assistance of many talented volunteers, they raised funds and constructed an extensive outdoor playground. We continue to enjoy our spacious, sunlit classrooms, which provide a warm, cheerful, inviting atmosphere for learning.

Many families have maintained relationships with us over the years. This has led to field trips to a grandma's alpaca farm, a family's dental office, and even a restaurant. Some parents who are in particular professions, such as nurse, doctor, dentist, chiropractor, chef, musician and educator, come back to share their expertise. All of this enriches our curriculum. Some Scribbles alumni have also returned to share their professions and talents,



We celebrated our 25th anniversary as an incorporated preschool at our annual Back to School Night this past October. Our anniversary affirmed our commitment to high quality early childhood education.

including assisting at our Summer Camp. Our innovative teachers, many of whom have been with us for 15-25 years, continually engage children one-on-one and in small groups, to make the themes of the month come alive, through hands-on experiences and dynamic play. Many former Scribbles parents who were certified, eventually became our teachers. Today the moms of 18 Scribbles alumni continue to teach here. This dedication to the School shows we are a family of teachers, parents, and children, happily immersed in a preschool program that benefits all of us.

Since it began in 1985, Scribbles has received recognition for its developmentally appropriate preschool program. We

have been acknowledged by a national educational association, a national learning disability organization, and state teacher award programs. Several colleges and universities recommend both their graduate students and teachers-in-training, to conduct observations and participate in our classes.

As we reflect on the past 25 years at Scribbles, we are grateful for the continued support of Mountain Lakes families, past and present. We look forward to future years of serving the needs of our young children from Mountain Lakes and surrounding communities in this beautiful setting on Briarcliff Road.

Happy Mountain Lakes Centennial to all!