

## JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED

My son started at Cobleskill Campus Child Care Center Inc., in the “Tiny Tot” classroom. I was drawn to the center by the reputation it held in the community and the theory based practice utilized, Reggio Emilia Theory. As a post graduate educated, first time, stay at home, mom that was told by our pediatrician that my son needs socialization, I only wanted the best. After being on the list, I got my call. This center was vastly different from the other alternatives available in the community. It is theory based; low numbers and the teacher teams have an outstanding reputation within the community. To me, when it comes to my son, price is not a concern however, the center is extremely reasonable.

### TINY TOT: Melissa and Carolyn

Melissa welcomed us and in her presence and observing her interactions, my anxiety began to diminish. Carolyn incorporated my son’s service plan for speech into their daily routine through a variety of skills including sign language and minimal exposures to things that made him anxious (and at that time everything made him anxious). Soon he began to communicate and explore. This team of teachers really loved the Reggio Philosophy and paid great attention to the toddler’s interest that facilitates the exploratory learning through play. Not only are they great with this stage of development they were also able to appropriately model and communicate parenting skills that allowed me to lessen my mom guilt and anxiety while fostering a healthy dynamic with my son AND that allowed for consistency between school and home. Toward the end of his time in their room, my son was reevaluated and not only did he reach his developmental stage milestones he also was functioning above it, in certain areas and I had enough confidence to return to work part time.

### TODDLERS: Ellen and Echo

These two wonderful teachers have many years of experience, as a team with toddlers and have an amazing reputation as a “toddler team”, in the community. At this developmental stage it’s apparent that constant redirection with consistency, patience and compassion is needed. The fore mentioned is accomplished so fluently by Ellen and Echo. And, once again my son is getting exactly what he needed at the right time.

### PRESCHOOL I: Christy, Ashley and Stephanie

This is where critical thinking really took off. Christy so eloquently provokes their interests, Stephanie nurtures and Ashley follows through. I really was able to see Reggio at work in this classroom. Another amazing team appropriate for this stage of development.

### PRESCHOOL II: Tanya and Janet

My son began this classroom this week. Although I have not had experience; it is notable to mention that I now have increased confidence and less anxiety about another transition and have returned to work full time. I am confident that my son will receive the best preparation for kindergarten while still enjoying learning. This is another team that has an outstanding reputation in the community for what they do.

### MORGAN:

I have seen Morgan grow professionally and personally being a new mom too, when I started. I am envious that while she was working out the kinks of being a new mom and a professional, she was able to receive the best support daily. She has been our one constant at the center and our family really and truly appreciates her presence.

ADMINISTRATION: Beth, Maureen and Sabrina

While we're busy planning and coordinating our details, life has a way of sneaking up on you and throwing a wrench in the plan. Beth and Maureen exude empathy and passion toward the families at the center. This, along with the understanding and flexibility, I could not have made it through the first 3 years without their support and empathy. And Sabrina is always a pleasure and helpful.

We are so grateful and humbled to have the ability to be part of the center and its amazing team... It in fact IS "Just what the doctor ordered!"

- **Michael Massucci**