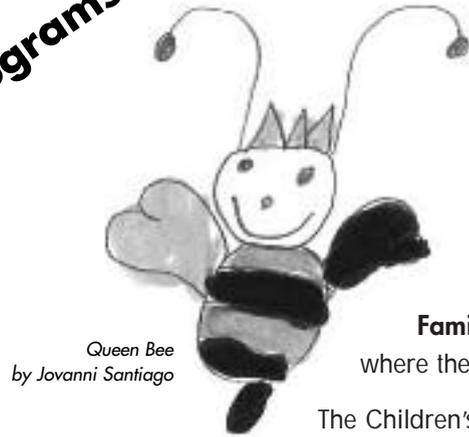


REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2001 - 2002



CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MUSEUM **creating kids childcare center** creating curriculum

... programs of the children's building



Children need a place of their own where they can experience the magic of learning at their own pace, a place full of whimsy and wisdom, a space built to their size and specifications.

Early childhood educators need a place to teach and learn with their children, a place where they can find support and inspiration.

Families need a place full of color, joy and community where they can play and learn together.

The Children's Building is designed to be such a place.

- Creating Kids Childcare Center
- Creating Curriculum
- Connecticut Children's Museum
- Making Murals
- Educational Field Trips
- Saturdays at 2
- Mornings at the Museum
- Creating Readers

Dear friends ...

Like each carefully crafted hexagon in a bee hive, The Children's Building was built by a community. And like the hexagon, The Children's Building is multi-sided and multi-dimensional, housing many programs designed to nurture children, their families and teachers.

In the Fall of 1999, Creating Kids moved its early childhood program to the childcare space within The Children's Building. Knowing the importance of place, we created an educational environment full of sunlight and beautiful wood, nooks of books and fabulous programming, all developed by our talented staff to support the multiple intelligences of each child. We serve the families of thirty children, drawn from the many neighborhoods of the city and its suburbs. Creating Kids is the heartbeat of the building.

The new Board of Directors developed a one-year plan to re-open the Connecticut Children's Museum. Our vision was to provide children, their families and teachers with programs in a magical place, rich in resources and rooted in the community.

The process of inspiring the museum space began in the winter of 2000, when community members — parents, child care providers, artists, teachers, legislators, musicians, dancers, designers, builders, scientists, politicians, health care providers, community organizers, businesspeople and naturalists — were invited to join together for a series of Inspiration Evenings. Participants applied their expertise and became architects of the ideas and designers of the exhibit rooms. Their work, to bring dimension to the eight intelligences, is mirrored throughout the museum. They inspired a remarkable arts and literacy-based museum with rooms dedicated to the linguistic, logical-mathematical, spatial, musical, interpersonal, intrapersonal, naturalist and bodily-kinesthetic intelligences.

Building on the rich experiences of Creating Kids and the resources of the museum, we have built an array of programs for children, their families and teachers. These include childcare provider training courses, educational field trips, a field trip series for family childcare providers, family visits — all with literacy and art woven through them.

Since the fall of 1999, tens of thousands of children, their families and teachers have alighted at the doors of The Children's Building to take part in the many programs here. It is truly a place that makes magic for children.


Sandra Malmquist Director

