The New Lemberg Children’s Center
and Playground

Old South Street, Waltham, MA

For our most precious resource: Our Children

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About Lemberg

Unique Model
Our unique and highly successful model of care is based on the experience and advanced study of our senior staff working in the classroom, mentoring recent graduates from leading universities and collaborating with college students to maintain a ratio of one adult to three children. We are supported by an exceptional university and a community that values research based practice for strong and healthy child, family, and societal development.

The New Lemberg Center and Playground
Over the years the demand for Lemberg’s services has grown and we have become an integral part of Brandeis’ educational mission. As a result, a new building is under construction, which will enable us to almost double the number of children we serve to 70. Our building is funded (by our enrollment) but our playgrounds are not. There will be more opportunities for Brandeis Work-Study Students as well as other academic collaborations. In addition the new center will be available for community activities on nights and weekends. To complete the new center, we are seeking $125,000 for a playground that will match the innovativeness of the rest of our program.

When is a Playground Not Just a Playground?
We want our children to have experiences with nature and creation in natural playgrounds, where slides are built into the hillside and rocks are part of the climbing options. At our new school site we can take advantage of its sloping terrain and have water run downhill over rocks ending into a sand box with easy drainage. In the pages that follow you will see many examples of playgrounds built this way to get a fuller sense of the creative and educational experiences that such playgrounds have to offer young children.

The creation of playgrounds conceived in this way is a growing trend. Some like the Boston Nature Center are creating spaces like this to help urban children who live far from a working farm or the woods to explore. Others like the Child Development Center at UNH see the opportunity to have children be raised up with an appreciation of the natural environment and to develop skills in farming or with sustaining our planets resources. We see the rich opportunity for hands on learning with the real objects that children see about them, find fascinating and hold in their hands like bugs, worms and other small insects. We want our children to build with rocks and tree limbs and create streams and huts.

Real Opportunities to Push the Envelope
Our site provides this opportunity to help children engage in projects that take awhile and required cooperation. Perhaps we’ll follow growing corn from a seed to an ear on our table, or building a shelter with tree limbs and woven reeds to keep out the wind and rain. Outdoor science experiences can motivate children to ask questions and seek answers.
They lead children to learn to read and write about their learning. They require that children count, create charts to organize their work, and signs to label things they make.

Outside Collaborations to Enhance the Experience
To help with the teaching of these skills, part of our nature playground will be a community garden, a tiny farm maintained by the Brandeis University Environmental Studies Program. We see this growing so that on weekends, the Environmental Studies students can have classes for community children to share in our gardening and explore what is needed to sustain our planet.

Fundraising ($15,000 already pledged)
We have set the goal to raise $125,000 for the construction of a natural playground and gardens. Later phases we look to adding solar panels to generate electricity and a windmill to bring water up from a well. We provide this document with the hope that you will want to join our effort to create and maintain the right space for our children and the Waltham area children. We hope you will contribute with time to help build our space and money to help us reach this goal.

Sample natural playgrounds to help you visualize our dreams...
On the following pages we share some examples of natural playgrounds recently constructed at other childcare programs. There are many features that we’d like to see in ours. These include: a bike path that winds around different play areas, water area with rocks, a tree house, hills to climb and a slide. There are examples of tunnels to crawl through, a garden for growing vegetables and spices, areas with spaces for construction activities including one with a workbench and another for pulley’s and ropes; of course a big covered sandbox. Additionally we want a path through our wooded area for finding bugs and checking out birds, a bird feeding area, and a space for infants & toddlers to practice walking up hill with steps to climb, a path to push bikes & wagons, a garden with spices, a Hobbit House and swings to enjoy.

For more examples, please go to http://www.brandeis.edu/lemberg/about/newcenter.html or lemberrgcc.org (see menu: About Us, New Lemberg Children’s Center)

THANK YOU!!

For more information and testimonials from staff, parents and previous members of the Lemberg family, contact our Executive Director, Howard Baker, 781-736-2200 or baker@brandeis.edu and watch our videos at: lemberrgcc.org (see menu: Support Us)

http://www.brandeis.edu/lemberg/support/index.html
The New Lemberg Children’s Center

Groundbreaking
September 24, 2013

Left to Right: State Rep. John Lawn; State Senator Michael Barrett; Howard Baker, Executive Director; President Frederick Lawrence, Brandeis University; Provost Steve Goldstein, Brandeis University; Mayor Jeannette McCarthy, Waltham, MA

Groundbreakers: Children of Lemberg Children’s Center 2013 – 2014

Samples of Natural Playgrounds

University of New Hampshire – Natural Playgrounds Inc. design.

Penn State University Sand play with shoot – Joanne Hiromura & Mike Lindstrom design
Penn State University – Bike path with tree stumps & balance beam

PSU – Tree limb tent ready for more limbs.

Montessori Education Magazine showing a natural landscape with wood structures

Lexington Playcare Center – Climbing hill – Joanne Hiromura design

University of New Hampshire – Slide built into the hill, with several ways to reach the top
UNH – Natural Playgrounds Inc. – Tree house

UNH – Climbing wall

Making things outside with wood

Tufts U. Eliot Pearson CDC - Bike path with awning & draped cloth

UNH – Another view of their natural landscape playground with a bridge & rocks to climb

Lexington Playcare Center – Circle time area – Joanne Hiromura design
UNH – Irrigated Garden Box - we plan to have many of these as part of our gardens open to community growers & Brandeis Environmental Studies program

Wellesley College Community Children’s Center – Xylophone for music

Wellesley College CCC – Water hand pump

Tufts, Eliot-Pearson Child Development Center – Bike path archway

Tufts University Eliot-Pearson CDC - Child controlled waterfall over rocks with sand pit at the bottom
Tufts Eliot Pearson CDC - Hobbit House with paint wall in background

Mass Audubon Society - Boston Nature Center, Mattapan, MA – Joanne Hiromura & Mike Lindstrom of studioMLA Architects

Fayerweather School - Climbing tree

Site of the new Lemberg Children’s Center from South Street – early November 2013

Site of the new Lemberg CC from Old South Street in October 2013