

LETTERS OF REFERENCE

Please see the following letters of reference:

1. Town of Arlington
RE: Springboard operations in a historic building
2. Department of Early Education and Care
RE: Letter showing no complaints filed
3. Town of Westford, Parks Recreation & Cemetery Dept.
RE: Letter of Recommendation
4. Westford Parents
RE: Letters of Recommendation



TOWN OF ARLINGTON

MASSACHUSETTS 02476

781 - 316 - 3090

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING and
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

March 15, 2010

Westford Board of Selectman
Town Hall
55 Main Street
Westford, MA 01886

To the Westford Board of Selectman,

It is my understanding that Ms Racioppi, Springboard Education in America and The Springboard Education Foundation are under consideration by the Town of Westford to lease space in Town of Westford owned building(s) to operate early child development schools and care, after school programs and other related programs.

Ms Racioppi's organization has been an outstanding tenant in a historic Arlington Town building for 25 years. Ms Racioppi has provided the community an outstanding early child development program and has enjoyed strong community support throughout the years. They have cooperated, coordinated and worked with various Town and community organizations including our Redevelopment Board, the Town's Recreation Department and the Arlington Center for the Arts. They enjoy an outstanding reputation in Arlington. The organization has been responsible and reliable tenant throughout the years.

I would not hesitate to recommend them as a prospective tenant for the Town of Westford.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Assistant Director David Berry, (781) 316-3088. Mr. Berry has worked closely with Ms. Racioppi as a tenant, as could answer any further questions in detail.

Sincerely,

Carol Kowalski AICP

Director of Planning & Community Development



March 11, 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

This is to acknowledge that the Westford Children's Learning Center of 508 Groton Road, Westford, Massachusetts has not had any complaints filed with the Department of Early Education and Care in the past three years.

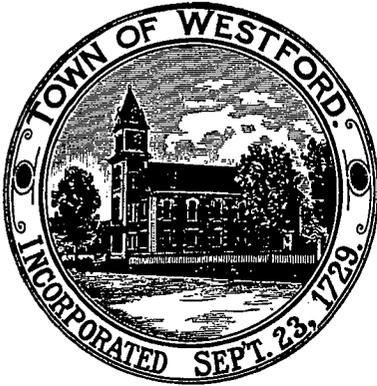
The site is currently licensed for 98 children between one month of age and Kindergarten, and 26 school-age children.

If additional information is needed regarding this program, please do not hesitate to contact me at (508) 798-5180 x 214.

Most Sincerely,

Martha G. Vigeant

Martha G. Vigeant
Licensing Specialist



Town of WESTFORD
PARKS, RECREATION & CEMETERY DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 2444 • 35 TOWN FARM ROAD
WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01886
OFFICE: (978) 692-5532
FAX: (978) 392-4471

Patricia Savage
Director

March 11, 2010

Board of Selectmen
Town of Westford
55 Main St.
Westford, MA 010886

Dear Members of the Board of Selectmen,

The Town of Westford has a long history of providing high-quality services for its residents. To ensure that history continues, I am writing today with regard to the RFP for the Roudenbush Buildings and in particular the comparative evaluation criteria #3 *Plans for coordination with other service providers and Town Departments to minimize duplication of programs. Other service providers include but are not limited to Public Schools, Recreation Department, Senior Center, youth athletic organizations, Board of Health, etc.* The Springboard Foundation has met with my department to develop a plan to coordinate services for Springboard Foundation's proposal for rent of three town facilities.

The intent of the Roudenbush RFP is to provide the Town of Westford and its residents with evidence-based early childhood education, quality afterschool programming and community-wide access to our most treasured public facilities.

The Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department in meeting with the Springboard Foundation have discussed how a collaborative relationship could work. Springboard successfully offers early childhood programs, academic and tutoring programs as well as after school programs here in Westford. Springboard has a vision of the future for our town's children.

In preliminary discussion the collaboration between Springboard and Westford Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Department could include the Springboard's academic and tutoring program within the department's Westford Partnership for Children (WPC) After school Enrichment program. The WPC operates in six elementary schools and serves both middle schools. Each organization brings complementary opportunities to the table.

If Springboard is awarded the Roudenbush contract, the Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department in addition to the programs we currently offer could provide community programs for all ages at the Roudenbush Community Center. We will coordinate with Springboard the use of the facility to ensure that this public building is fully accessible to the public, for classes,

programs and meetings. This collaboration would also funnel program fees back to the Department, providing us with a much needed new revenue source for our activities and promoting our cost effective programs to area residents.

I believe this could be a workable and beneficial collaboration for the Town of Westford, the Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department, and Springboard Foundation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Savage
Patricia Savage, Director

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for Springboard Afterschool's RFP for the current Roudenbush buildings in Westford, Massachusetts.

My daughters have participated in the Springboard Afterschool program and its affiliated Westford Children's Learning Center for 2 years. As this is my family's third daycare/preschool/afterschool facility (due to moves), I can say with certainty that it is also the finest. The variety of activities available for the children coupled with the level of compassion of the teachers has made our 2 years there rewarding for all members of my family.

I believe that Springboard would be able to revitalize the Roudenbush Center and transform it into a cohesive, exciting community center with programs that would be valued greatly by Westford's families.

Sincerely,
Kristin Cambray
Westford, MA
(978) 496-1492
kcambray@comcast.net

March 12, 2010

Dear Westford Board of Selectmen,

I am pleased to write this letter of reference for Springboard School. Both of my children have attended daycare at their facility at 508 Groton Road since my older daughter was eight months old in the fall of 2003. At that time, the center was under different ownership. In February of 2005, the previous owner ran into financial problems and was going to close the center after giving parents and teachers one-week notice. A parent at the center knew Marianne Racioppi and Kevin Flynn and asked them to come meet with us. Marianne and Kevin listened to us and presented a sound plan to re-open the center as Westford Children's Learning Center.

In the months that followed, Marianne and Kevin gutted the interior of the building and reorganized the space. The result was large, beautiful rooms filled with furniture and toys that were appropriate for each age group. They brought in a fabulous, experienced director from one of their other centers who began to work on the center's curriculum, ensuring that it followed guidelines set out by the Dept. of Early Childhood Education. Most importantly, they listened to and responded to our concerns and/or suggestions for improvement.

Over the years, they have expanded their offering to include an after-school program for school age children. As part of this expansion, they also opened a full-day private kindergarten in the fall of 2008. I opted to send my older daughter to this program (even though it was the first year) because I had the confidence in Marianne and Kevin's ability to provide a top-notch program. My daughter did have a wonderful year in the program and is currently enrolled in first grade in Westford. As I am a teacher in Westford, my daughter does not need after-school care on a regular basis, but she does attend Springboard on Professional Development Days. It is a wonderful feeling that I can leave her there knowing that she will spend her day doing constructive things and that she will be happy when I pick her up at the end of the day.

In closing, as a parent and as a teacher, I have been thrilled with the level of care provided by Springboard and I wholeheartedly endorse their bid to take over the operations at Roudenbush.

Sincerely,

Karen L. Sacco

To whom it may concern:

We have been working with Springboard After School program for the 2009-2010 school year as our daughter is a kindergartener. We have been very pleased with the care that she has received. I believe that the program that is offered through Springboard has not only allowed her to grow academically but socially as well. She often will come home with "science projects" that are absolutely wonderful. I would definitely recommend the Springboard Program.

Thank you!
Kris Frazee

Director of Sales

Courtyard by Marriott Billerica/Bedford
978-671-2103

March 12, 2010

Westford Board of Selectmen
Westford, MA

Dear Board Members,

We are writing this letter in support of Erin Robinson and the Springboard After School Program she runs on Groton Road. Our son, Cameron, is 7 years old and has attended Springboard after school for 2-3 days each week throughout this year. He loves it. The activities are both fun and instructive, the staff is extremely reliable and pleasant, and he is truly disappointed when his mom or dad picks him up at the end of the afternoon because he doesn't want to leave. He spends part of every afternoon at Springboard completing his homework for school and he still doesn't want to leave at the end of the day. We consider that to be a remarkably successful program.

We and other parents in Westford consider Springboard's flexible schedule, reasonable pricing, and convenient operating hours all to be extraordinary positives about a local program that is run as well as Springboard is run.

We understand that SpringBoard is submitting an RFP with regard to the Roudenbush facilities in town. We wholeheartedly support an expansion of Springboard's programs as a complement to existing Roudenbush programs and facilities. Springboard is one of the best things about raising kids in Westford and any chance to expand its breadth should be welcomed,

Sincerely yours,

Andrew & Eileen Horne

Jodi Ross

**Town Manager
Town of Westford
23 Depot Street
Westford, MA 01886**

Friday, March 12, 2010

Dear Jodi,

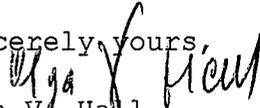
I would like to recommend the Springboard After School program in support of their RPF proposal for the Roudenbush Buildings.

My daughter, Natalya Hall, has been attending Westford's Springboard program since its inception. I am continuously impressed with their programs, teachers, and their selection and choices. The kids have access to not only subjects in the academic area, but additional learning offerings are available. Springboard teachers were the first to point out that Natalya has talent in art and musical areas; we followed their advice and my daughter has been a happy music learner ever since. As a full time working mother, I am very happy for the quality of attention and instruction that she gets during homework and study time. The teachers and leadership in the program are very open and accessible. I can discuss challenging areas for my child academically and I observe that the very next day, she is working on additional materials to go over in these areas with Springboard teachers. This year I have had an intense travel schedule. Knowing that my child's academics won't be impacted because she is in a positive learning after-school environment is a huge relief.

On a continuing basis, I see that the leadership of the program looks for the ways to bring growth and development options to the children: the kids enjoy a rich library, access to local writers' workshops and other interesting activities that I hear about often from my child.

In my opinion, Springboard After School is a great program with strong leadership and focus on our kids and community.

Sincerely yours,


Olga V. Hall

March 15, 2010

Springboard
508 Groton Rd
Westford, MA 01886

To Whom It May Concern:

Our names are Jennifer and Philip Richards we are working parents of two children attending the Springboard Facility in Westford, MA. We came to the Springboard facility approximately two years ago after leaving the Rodenbush at Frost and Rodenbush School-age program. Our children had attended the Frost facility for nearly four years when we realized that they had outgrown the program and needed something "more". We wanted the kids to have some sort of structured learning during the summer but we also wanted them to have fun. Neither Frost nor the school-age program offered summer learning programs so we began our search. Our friend's children attend the Westford Children's Learning Center and suggested that we look into the Springboard program. We set up a meeting with the staff and nearly immediately were ready to move our children to the Springboard program.

The summer program is exceptional. The kids were able to work with robotics, learn outdoor survival skills, computer skills, and most importantly work on specially designed programs focused on skills they needed to improve for the coming school year. Prior to the summer program starting we were asked to provide the staff with a list of things we wanted the children to work on during the summer. My daughter was having difficulty with reading and the staff worked with her everyday and brought her reading and comprehension levels up. They provided us with feedback on how she was progressing and any problems she was encountering. My son worked on his reading skills as well as handwriting.

As parents it is always difficult to leave your children everyday so you can go to work however, when your children literally leap out of bed in the morning, get dressed as fast as they can, and ask constantly, "When are we going to Springboard?" you feel a level of confidence and happiness that they are not only in capable hands but, they are having fun and learning. The staff at Springboard is amazing. They are constantly interacting with the kids. They are sitting on the floor playing games, working at the tables helping them read, digging in the dirt helping learn how to build a shelter, and smiling just as much as the children.

When we realized that Springboard was interested in the Rodenbush programs we both thought that it is exactly what the Roudenbush programs need. When the children were younger (ages 2-5 ½) we loved Frost. The teachers and staff are caring and wonderful for younger children. Springboard would enhance that program by bringing exciting new programs and strong academic focus while maintaining the high standards of care that Westford parents demand.

We strongly recommend that Springboard be allowed to bring their programs to the Roudenbush. Springboard would strengthen the Roudenbush programs and maintain the strong academic expectations of Westford residents.

I would be more than happy to speak more about our experiences at Frost, the Rodenbush school-age program and our transfer to Springboard. We can be reached at our home 978-692-1676.

Sincerely,

The Richards Family

Jennifer, Philip, Lauren, and Kailen