



Play & Learn Milestones

- 1981: McNeil Consumer Products became the first corporate associate of Play and Learn, providing a significant start up grant establishing the first Play and Learn center on the wooded campus of Wordsworth Academy in Fort Washington, PA.
- 1982: Play and Learn enters a 10-year contract with McNeil Pharmaceutical to provide child care for its employees. McNeil and Play and Learn worked together to design and build the center, formerly located in Spring House, PA.
- 1984: Play and Learn begins providing management services to Montessori Children's House.
- 1985: Play and Learn joins the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Play and Learn is invited to present at the annual national conference in 1985, 1993, 1995, 2009, 2010 and 2015.
- 1988: The Granny Scholarship Fund is established in memory of Anna Schatz to help families who are facing financial difficulties maintain continuity for their children.
- 1993: Play and Learn enters into an agreement with Plymouth Meeting Mall to provide "drop-in" care for parents wanting to shop or dine at the mall.
- 1997: Women's Way Philadelphia provides Play and Learn with significant funding for the expansion of the Ft. Washington, PA Preschool Center.
- 2002: Abington Memorial Hospital selects Play and Learn over several national providers to manage its on-site child care program, the Gerstadt Center.

- 2002: Play and Learn collaborates with Montgomery County Head Start and receives grants to provide full-day and full-year early education programs to Head Start children at our Green Lane, PA Center.
- 2002: Merck Pharmaceuticals selects Play and Learn to pilot a sick care program called "Comfy Care," at the Lansdale Play and Learn center.
- 2005: Play and Learn introduces Back Up Care program.
- 2006: Work Options Group contracts Play and Learn to provide temporary care to employees of Wyeth, Prudential and Merck, creating Play and Learn's Back Up Care program.
- 2006: Play and Learn enrolls all centers in Keystone STARS, an initiative of the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) to improve, support, and recognize the continuous quality improvement efforts of early learning programs in Pennsylvania.
- 2008: The Terri Lynne Lokoff Foundation selects an educator from our Bryn Mawr, PA Center to receive a Teacher Recognition Award for excellence in the care of infants.
- 2009: Keystone STARS recognizes a Master's Degree preschool teacher from the Fort Washington, PA Play and Learn center for her excellence in her profession, awarding her "Teacher of the Year."
- 2010: Play and Learn Directors receive training in Mind in the Making, an early childhood education program offered by the Southeast Regional Key. Mind in the Making stresses essential life and learning skills for children as an important complement to traditional textbook learning.
- 2011: Play and Learn celebrates 30 years of quality early education and introduces SMART Boards into all centers, fostering computer-savvy while teaching the educational objectives in a fun and unique way.
- 2012: Director of the Hatboro Play and Learn center is nominated for the Southeast Regional Key (SERK) Honor Roll.
- 2012: Fort Washington Preschool Center receives \$50,000 grant from the Non-Profit Finance Fund to renovate their playground.
- 2013: Pre-K Counts, a free pre-kindergarten program established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education is started at the Blue Bell, Hatboro and Lansdale Play and Learn Centers.

- 2013: Play and Learn opens new centers in Norristown and Royersford.
- 2014: Abington Memorial Hospital, Play and Learn and State Representative Madeleine Dean celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Gerstadt Center, Abington Jefferson Health's early education program.
- 2015: Play and Learn begins providing management services to Jenkintown Day Nursery and develops a partnership with Jenkintown Day Nursery Foundation to provide families in need with tuition assistance.
- 2016: Executive Director Judith Cooper is presented with the Award of Excellence by the Pennsylvania Child Care Association or PACCA.
- 2017: Play and Learn partners with Maternity Care Coalition to offer Early Head Start at the Norristown Play and Learn Center.

The Foster Grandparent Program, a program that provides volunteer opportunities for limited-income seniors to help children with special needs begins at the Fort Washington Play and Learn center.