

"The only way to have a friend is to be one."

RALPH WALDO EMERSON



the meeting house



“AT THE MEETING HOUSE WE HELP CHILDREN TO DEVELOP THEIR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SELVES IN WAYS THAT WILL EMPOWER THEM THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES. OUR EXCITING PROGRAMS OFFER A RICH MIX OF AMBITIOUS ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS AND TWEENS – GUIDED BY PROFESSIONALS AND MENTORS. WE ARE ENGAGED IN COMMUNITY ENLIGHTENMENT AND ACTIVISM THROUGH OUR ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM AND ONGOING INFORMATION SHARING EFFORTS.”

PAULA RESNICK, *Founder*



WHO WE ARE

The Meeting House is a non-profit organization providing recreational afterschool and weekend community activities for children who need help with social and emotional learning. Our mission is to create fun, friendship and community for kids, which we do in part by seamlessly integrating recreation with therapy.



WHAT WE DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Everyday at The Meeting House Program, we get to witness little miracles happen. We've seen the 7 year old who can't tolerate anyone in his space standing shoulder to shoulder with children building a community puzzle. A 12 year old who never gets picked for teams in school gym, selected to lead our warm up activities. The 10 year old with a social isolation history from home schooling emerging as the group leader and helping younger children with their homework. An 8 year old child, who developed social anxiety from bullying, realizing he can have more than one friend without losing affection from the others. For the parents of these children, we make the difference from living with pain that their child will never fit in, to tears that they have now found a friend.



AFTERSCHOOL WEEKDAY PROGRAMS

HOMESCHOOL AND HANG OUT

We begin with homework and hang out time. Kids are able to socialize with friends in a supportive and safe environment that offers them a chance to practice and generalize skills.

M-CHAT

Imagine an experience where you can leave the day behind you, join a circle of welcoming, friendly faces and take your place in a friendship circle...Welcome to MChat!

You'll have a chance to regroup, focus on your activity schedule, select an enrichment experience of your choice and exercise your best attention and listening skills with the group. The next thing you know you might be celebrating a "wacky holiday" together or one of the new weekly group activities designed to inspire problem solving, team-work and friendship.



KITE CLUB

Each day we begin Kite Club with a warm up activity to promote focus, teamwork and problem solving. The initial activity and the weekly lessons are presented in multi-sensory ways, with differentiated levels of content in order to be appealing and accessible to all children. A realistic setting combines work and play, which promotes the social development of their community selves and provides a platform for a real-time corrective experience that results in a practical and applicable skill set leading to social success.

Most importantly in Kite Club we have fun helping children relate to one another as individuals. Our professional team uses creative and highly engaging materials to teach children behaviors that they don't have the opportunity to learn elsewhere.



ELECTIVES AND SPORTS

Our rich program of ELECTIVES and SPORTS includes visual arts, dance, movement, sports and technology. Children work in small groups and deepen their areas of common interests with their peers and Meeting House friends.

The VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM is packed with an array of creative projects for the kids to explore. Our diverse combination and method of engagement offers children an authentic and unique opportunity for social and artistic enrichment. Children explore their creative side with a variety of group projects including collaborative murals, mosaics, comic book making, dioramas and more.

Another creative outlet for the children is the DANCE AND MOVEMENT PROGRAM. Dance can have a powerful impact in children's daily lives because it is both a physical activity and a vehicle for self-expression. It offers the rich experience of exploring

and creating, with the added benefits of lively movement. The children learn all types of dance and movement from hip-hop to parkour to line dancing and gymnastics. There's a whole lot of shaking going on.



Our TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM is the fundamental starting ground for engineering, filmmaking, graphic design, computer science and more. We show children a hands-on way to use mathematics and science in everyday life.



This program helps children think of the world in a whole new way and encourages collaboration of ideas and interaction with their fellow 'techie's'. Recent projects have included robotics, stop-motion video, and electrical circuit building.



Our SPORTS PROGRAM focuses not only on physical skill building on the court and the field but also the social components involved in being part of a team and being a good team mate.



WEEKEND PROGRAMS

Our popular HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE WEEKENDS are hosted at various New York City locations where kids from different weekday sessions get together to practice and generalize critical socialization skills. With fun trips to New Victory Theatre, Chelsea Piers, Math Museum, Brooklyn Beast, The Gaga Center and more, each event leaves the children exhilarated by the challenges of new social situations while traveling.



ESCORT AND LIFE SKILLS are provided by a trusted young adult who travels with Meeting House students to and from our program. During that time they get real world practical experience, while creating a bond of familiarity with their community surroundings. Almost 60% of our students are escorted from school to The Meeting House with their escort and friends.



THE HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE MENTOR PROGRAM is our resource to share perspective, understanding and role model inspiration. It's important to our community because mentors help engender self-esteem, self-awareness and self-determination. These critical life success factors emerge for kids when mentors express their "I can do it - you can too" attitude.



PARENT TESTIMONIALS

"I know that Max absolutely cherishes his time spent at the Meeting House. It's the highlight of his week."

— MOTHER OF 11 YEAR OLD

"I cannot tell you how much Tyler LOVES The Meeting House.... and how thrilled I am with the role playing (in such a fun way). These are EXACTLY the scenarios with which he is struggling...I am convinced Michelle was my fairy g-d mother when she mentioned it to me ;-)"

— MOTHER OF 7 YEAR OLD

"The other day, when I commented on how focused he was, Peter told me that he was focused in class because of a rock that he got at The Meeting House! What wonderful work he is doing with you!"

— TEACHER OF 9 YEAR OLD

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

EACH YEAR WE HOST AN ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM OF IDEAS AND CURRENT THINKING THAT ALIGNS WITH OUR VISION AND DEMONSTRATES OUR COMMITMENT TO ELEVATING DISCUSSION AMONG THOSE WORKING ON CHILDREN'S SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING.

The Symposium 2015 event – *Just a Click Away!* – was planned to feature respected speakers and spark another amazing evening of engaging and interesting dialogue. The topic, how social media influences our children's social development, could not be timelier, given the prevalence of social media use in our society. The goal of the evening's interactive discussion is to bring educators, therapists and parents together for a unique forum of socializing, enlightenment and collaborative dialogue.



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The Meeting House DNA

The beneficial Social and Emotional Outcomes that we provide to children are informed by the four core aspects that guide our program – *Vision, Mission, Values and Drivers*

OUR VISION

Help children develop their social and emotional selves in ways that will empower them throughout their lives

OUR VALUES

Communication
Collaboration
Diversity
Respect
Passion
Quality

OUR MISSION

Inspire “fun, friendship & community” between kids and their world

OUR DRIVERS

Recreation
Enrichment
Therapeutic support
Inclusion
Authenticity

OUR OUTCOMES

Friendship management
Self regulation
Self awareness
Resiliency
Flexibility
Empathy
Conflict management

VERBAL & NON-VERBAL
COMMUNICATION



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