

THERESA'S FUN PLACE IS ENJOYED BY 250 CHILDREN AT CP NASSAU



Theresa's Fun Place is enjoyed practically year-round by the children who attend school at CP Nassau's Children's Learning Center. The children range in age from 2 – 21 and have varying disabilities that range from mild to severe, but all share a love for Theresa's Fun Place! School Principal, Kevin Loughlin, says that on a daily basis, he and the faculty think about what an amazing gift the Theresa Foundation has given to their students with all the generous funding provided to establish and maintain this amazing center of fun and joy! CP Nassau Executive Director, Bob McGuire, couldn't agree more and is so grateful to the Russo family and all their friends and associates who have made the playground possible.

Principal Loughlin went on to comment, "Research shows outdoor play is much more than just fun. It's necessary to help kids be physically fit and healthy. When kids are playing, they are learning reflexes and movement control, developing fine and gross motor skills and increasing flexibility and balancing skills. On top of that, when kids are involved in physical activity, they're building stronger muscles and improving bone density, improving heart and lung function and preventing obesity. Free play also encourages children to develop skills that build self-confidence, such as conflict resolution and imaginative dramatic play. Social development with children—and the ability to play on their own—are also important factors in building self-confidence."

Director of Physical Therapy, Symong Choi, loves the playground, "It gives our students the opportunity to explore, play, imagine and develop motor coordination. Plus, some of our students may never get an experience to 'play' in a playground due to limited accessibility by their family."

"Our students need a place to play that is like those in any other typical school but is adapted for their needs and abilities. That is why we are so very grateful to have the amazing Theresa's Fun Place," remarked Tracey Miller, the Director of Social Work.

Here is what some of the students have to say:

I feel happy when I am outside on our new playground -Ashly

I am proud of the new playground -Iyana

The new playground is exciting -Muzzammel

I feel free when I am on the swings -Jayleen

The playground is so good. My favorite parts are the swings and the roly, bumpy slide! - Jesus

I love the rocking boat! -Amy

I like the slides! Weeee! -Xavier

I like the bumpy slide with friends! -Joshua

Jennifer Green, Music Therapist, at CLC feels the playground is so important, "The opportunity to be outside and experience the different things to do is so great. Many of our students don't get outside as much as others and the adaptability of our playground allows everyone to enjoy!"

CLC teacher, Christine LaSala, sees the smiles and joy of her students whenever they are on the playground and said, "The playground gives the students the opportunity to exercise and use their bodies in a fun way. The adapted equipment gives many of our kids the only opportunity to experience a playground like the ones their peers visit."

Everyone at CP Nassau and the Children's Learning Center including students, faculty, administrators and families say thank you to all at the Theresa Foundation for your caring, your generosity and your support!

Your Friends from CP Nassau

For more information on Theresa's Fun Place, please visit
<http://www.theresafoundation.org/theresas-fun-place/>