



Penobscot Bay YMCA Announces its new Co-Childcare Directors

November 16, 2011 - Rockport, Maine – The Penobscot Bay YMCA is pleased to announce its new Co-Childcare Directors, Meghan Gustafson and Lydia Fournier. Gustafson and Fournier fill the role of Jen Curtis, previous Youth and Family Services Director, who returned to teaching in the public school system.

Since September 1999, Meghan has held various positions within the childcare program, such as afterschool staff, camp counselor, preschool teacher and head teacher. For eight years, Meghan has been the Assistant Child Care Director. "I am excited for this opportunity and looking forward to continuing working with the families" said Meghan. She has her bachelor's degree in Childhood Studies from Plymouth State College, Plymouth, NH. Meghan is a mother of three children and lives with her husband in Rockland.

Lydia Fournier, attended the University of Maine at Farmington and graduated with a bachelor's degree in both Early Childhood Education and Psychology. Previously she held the positions of Preschool Coordinator and Head Preschool teacher at the Y. Before coming to the Y, she served as a Parent Coordinator in a childcare for children ages three to five. In addition to being a teacher and Administrative Assistant within a Pre-K program, she also has experience as an Early Head Start Home Visitor, working with children with behavioral and special needs. "I am committed to the families and staff here at the Y and hope to make a positive difference in their lives" states Lydia. She is a mother of two children and lives with her husband in Warren.

The Penobscot Bay YMCA provides services to over 100 different families on a weekly basis, ranging from infants to school-age children. The Y's Child Care Center services provide parents with high quality, affordable child care through a family centered, value based program that nurtures children's overall healthy development.

The Child Care programs promote creativity, a love for learning, social and emotional development and character building in a safe and nurturing environment with caring adults. The Y combines play with academics by offering enrichment through arts, music, physical education, sports and nutrition.

As an example of how the Y's child care program can impact families and children, Becky and Gus Ruggieri turned to the YMCA for support after gaining guardianship of their granddaughter, Addy. "The Y has become an extension of our family," says Becky. "The impact that the Y has made on Addy will stay with her for a life time."

Within the past year, the Penobscot Bay YMCA Childcare program became NAEYC accredited. The accreditation demonstrates the Y's commitment to excellence, quality performance in child care and nationally recognized criteria that goes beyond the state licensing requirements. Working with young children in their early years is a priority for the YMCA. The Y strives to create a caring community where children can begin their journey to become a lifelong learner while supporting their individual needs. To learn more about the Y's Childcare Programs please contact the Penobscot Bay YMCA @ 236.3375.



Left: Lydia Fournier
Right: Meghan Gustafson