

## WELCOME TO YOUR WEEKLY EMPLOYEE UPDATE

In this update, you will discover...

- **LETTER FROM OUR CEO**
- **COVID VACCINATION EDUCATION**
- **HUMAN RESOURCES**
  - Teacher Appreciation Fund
  - Listening Tour '21
- **CAREERS**

## LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Hi Friend,

This week, we have more good news to share out of Connecticut: our three Building Blocks Early Learning Centers grew to a total of *eight* centers across the Constitution state!

Right now, this growth is nothing short of extraordinary. Across the country, there are very few organizations in our field that are expanding their services. Sadly, many states are reporting up to 50% of their childcare centers are permanently closing.

Thanks to those working in our schools, we are sharing news of positive growth. Here's a bit more about our outstanding teammates in Connecticut:

- There are more than 125 combined years of in-school experience between our CT Directors.
- At many locations, half of our CT teachers have 10+ years of experience.
- CT curriculum includes the [Choose Love Social-Emotional Movement](#), which was developed and is maintained by an educator and mother from Newtown.
- The majority of these CT locations are NAEYC accredited.
- The three original Building Blocks schools are located in Stamford and Wilton. The fourth school, formerly Child's World Academy, is in Monroe. The other four schools, formerly Tender Care Early Learning Centers, are located in Hamden, Middletown, Avon, and East Granby.
- The majority of our CT teachers and leaders have received the COVID vaccine or will receive the vaccine by the end of the month!

The family of our Connecticut President, Lindsay Hoffman, initially founded Building Blocks because they wanted to ensure that high-quality childcare looked the same for every child in every classroom. Lindsay's family noticed that many other childcare centers charged extra for additional enrichment programs (music, movement, language, etc.), which contributed to greater inequity, making it obvious which families could pay for additional classes and which families could not.

Building Blocks set out to change that, and they built more equitable schools by making all enrichment programs available to children. With this current expansion happening amidst the COVID crisis, once again, they show up for their community by sustaining access to high-quality childcare at a time when it's needed most.



I am so honored to have this opportunity to formally and properly welcome these extraordinary teams at Tender Care and Child's Worlds Academy schools, along with the legacy Building Blocks schools, into our extraordinary network. I'd also like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank Lindsay for her leadership and to recognize the wonderful teachers and directors at our Building Blocks schools. Welcome. Thank you. Now more than ever, I am excited and genuinely inspired by all the good we can do as we continue to grow together.

With admiration,  
*David*

David Post, Chief Executive Officer

### WEEKLY UPDATE 3/12/2021

#### **COVID VACCINATION EDUCATION**

As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping you up-to-date on COVID vaccination information, this section of our weekly newsletter is dedicated to COVID vaccine updates and education.

#### ***IMPORTANT NOTE:***

To further ease and support all employees receiving their COVID vaccinations, the company will provide one paid hour per vaccination visit. Please connect with your director or direct report on how to submit.

#### **Connecticut:**

- [Childcare staff can now sign up for vaccines.](#)
  - Please bring a paystub or staff card to your appointment to prove employment and eligibility!

#### **Massachusetts:**

- Childcare staff are now eligible to register for the vaccine at any of the 170 state-wide vaccine sites.
- Starting today, 3/12, those eligible can preregister for a vaccine at the 7 mass vaccination locations:
  - Gillette Stadium
  - Fenway Park (moving to Hynes Convention Center March 27)
  - Reggie Lewis Center
  - Danvers DoubleTree Hotel
  - Natick Mall
  - Eastfield Mall, Springfield
  - Former Circuit City, Dartmouth
- Childcare workers can preregister for one of the weekend clinics specifically for educators on March 27, April 3, April 10 or April 11.
- Select CVS locations opened vaccinations to teachers last week

#### *To schedule an appointment:*

- Use the [vaccine finder](#).
- Go to a third party site to register directly:
  - Curative operates mass sites in [Danvers](#) and [Dartmouth](#).

- Book directly through [select CVS locations](#). **HINT:** when you first select a state, select one that does have an opening - this gets you to a page that you can refresh and watch for vaccines near you.

Hints to find a vaccine:

- Set up alerts from [this Twitter account](#) that immediately tweets when new slots go live.
- Check this [independent](#) online vaccination platform: [macovidvaccines.com](#).
- Sign up for alerts for open vaccination appointments from this independent site: [MA COVID Vaccine Finder](#).

#### **New Hampshire:**

- [Beginning Wednesday, 3/17, childcare staff can sign up for vaccination appointments using a new system the state says will be "better and simpler."](#)
- Must bring to the appointment:
  - o Driver's license/ ID and either:
  - o Paystub, OR
  - o Letter on letterhead stating you meet eligibility.

#### **Vermont:**

- Childcare Staff can sign up for vaccines now.
- Staff can [set up an account and schedule an appointment here](#).
- Help is available at the COVID-19 call center at 1-855-722-7878.

The information and guidance surrounding COVID vaccination can become overwhelming pretty quickly. Please remember, you are not alone! We have dedicated resources to help you see this through. If you have more questions about how to start your vaccination journey, please reach out to Meghan McGinley Crowe at [mcrowe@littlesprouts.com](mailto:mcrowe@littlesprouts.com) or Crissy Trayner at [c Trayner@littlesprouts.com](mailto:c Trayner@littlesprouts.com).

We also have a dedicated section on our [COVID-19 Resource page \(littlesprouts.com/covid-19\)](#) with updated education materials from recent live discussions with doctors and public health officials regarding the development and importance of the COVID vaccine.

[COVID-19 Resource Page](#)

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

##### ***Teacher Appreciation Fund***

This week, directors across all 40 of schools received notice that a "Teacher Appreciation Budget" to help cover the cost of teacher morale initiatives and events would be added to their school budgets. You can review the letters that directors received below.

[Little Sprouts Teacher  
Appreciation Fund](#)

[Building Blocks Teacher  
Appreciation Fund](#)

[Heartworks, STEAMworks &  
Loveworks Teacher  
Appreciation Fund](#)

#### ***Listening Tour '21***

David Post, Chief Executive Officer of Little Sprouts, has begun his 2021 Listening Tour directly with teachers. David is hosting 60-minute, small-group video-meets twice a week with coaches, teachers, and



other staff members throughout the rest of this month. RSVP now to reserve a time to speak with David directly.

[Listening Tour RSVP](#)

**CAREERS**

As we work to build enrollment back and invite more staff to return to school, we want to highlight open positions across our networks. If you or someone you know would be a good fit for any of our currently available positions, invite them to apply or reach out directly to our Director of Sales and Recruitment, Dave Hawthorne: [dhawthorne@littlesprouts.com](mailto:dhawthorne@littlesprouts.com).

***View Openings Here***

Little Sprouts Careers

BBELC Careers

Heartworks Careers

Loveworks Careers



[Leave a Note of Gratitude](#)

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