

December 2019

Andrea and Andrew Sambrook lead a family-owned preschool in Hinesburg, Vermont which has been certified by Eco-Healthy Child Care® (EHCC) for six years. Annette's Preschool and the Clubhouse serves over 90 families with children from the ages of 6 months to 8 years. The preschool aims to provide high quality early care and education for each child's unique developmental profile. Andrea and Andrew strive to maintain a high level of care through staff professional development and cultivating sustainable business practices to promote the health and wellbeing of all who work and play there. This mission serves as the backbone for continually improving upon their commitment to go above and beyond the expectations of the EHCC program.

Since becoming EHCC endorsed in 2013, Annette's Preschool and the Clubhouse has enhanced the health of its learning and care environment by following the evidenced-based practices recommended by EHCC. This included upgrading the school HVAC system, replacing the majority of the wall to wall carpeting in their classrooms with bamboo flooring, and implementing a no idling policy which is enforced with five signs. Before it became a state requirement, all water faucets in the preschool were tested for lead. Based on the results, a drinking water faucet in one classroom was replaced and now all classrooms use filtered drinking water pitchers. The staff bathroom faucet, which is used for handwashing, is set to be replaced in December 2019.

In order to further reduce children's exposure to toxic chemicals, cleaning products that are [ECOLOGO®](#) certified are used in all learning areas. Enthusiastic learners of all ages use ACMI certified art supplies and parents are encouraged to bring outdoor and indoor shoes for their child to help reduce the amount of outdoor contaminants being tracked into the facility. The Annette's Preschool team also promotes education and awareness about the importance of having an eco-friendly learning environment by hosting events for staff and parents (such as the annual Eco-Fest in April when families engage in environmental conservation activities in each class and then earn a stamp in their child's "eco-passport").



Beyond their indoor initiatives, students have the opportunity to learn about and connect with the natural world around them. They have on-site raised garden beds where a variety of vegetables and herbs are grown and children help prepare their own fresh snacks. For meals, parents are advised to pack their children's lunches in glass jars to prevent children from being exposed to phthalates and other chemicals often found in plastics. By communicating their eco-healthy policies with parents, they are able to get buy-in which makes implementing these practices easier while encouraging adoption in the homes of the children they serve.

We are pleased to highlight Annette's Preschool for the EHCC Provider Spotlight Series for all that they do to protect children's health! To learn more about Annette's Preschool check out their EHCC profile on our website [here](#) and visit their website [here](#)! The spotlight series highlights EHCC endorsed facilities that have made great strides to improve environmental health in turn benefitting children's health and development. To become an EHCC endorsed provider and to be considered for the EHCC Spotlight Series visit: www.cehn.org/ehcc