VERNON FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

Maple St. Elementary School: 20 Maple St, Vernon
Phone: 860-883-2581-Fax:860-870-6181

Recently the Family Resource Center budget was projected to be *reduced by 50%* at the State Department of Education level and the potential for further cuts or possible *total elimination* of this grant is currently being considered.

We are asking that if your family was at any time, if your family is currently enrolled in, or if your family is engaged in and attends any programming run by the Vernon Family Resource Center, that you please write a statement/story about what the Vernon Family Resource Center means to you and your family. Thank-you for your time and consideration!

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What does the Family Resource Center mean to you and your family?

THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER IS AN AMAZING PART OF OUR FAMILY AND OUR COMMUNITY! I HAVE BEEN TAKING MY 4 YR OLD DAUGHTER TO THEIR WED. AND FRI. MORNING PROGRAMS SINCE SHE WAS 2 YRS OLD. AT THESE PROGRAMS, MY DAUGHTER, CHARLOTTE, ENGAGES IN HIGHLY ENRICHING AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, CRAFTS, STORY TIMES, AND PLAY TIME WITH HER PEERS WHERE WE FOCUS ON SOCIAL SKILLS AND TEAMWORK. THESE GROUPS ARE SO FUN, PROVIDE A PLACE FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS FROM THE COMMUNITY TO DEVELOP FRIENDSHIPS AND LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER, AND GIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS TO LEARN NEW WAYS TO INTERACT WITH THEIR KIDS. IT'S SUCH A DYNAMIC PART OF OUR COMMUNITY THAT IS LOVED BY CHILDREN AND PARENTS! THE FRIDAY PROGRAM HAS ALSO BEEN SO HELPFUL FOR PREPARING CHARLOTTE FOR KINDERGARTEN, BECAUSE IT IS ACTUALLY LOCATED IN AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET USED TO GOING TO AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ONE MORNING A WEEK FROM THE TIME SHE WAS A TODDLER HAS GIVEN HER CONFIDENCE IN THAT SETTING THAT SHE WOULD NOT HAVE HAD OTHERWISE. IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING GREAT ACTIVITIES AT THESE PROGRAMS, OUR DIRECTOR,

STEPHANIE, ALSO SPENDS A GREAT DEAL OF TIME GIVING HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS TO PARENTS AND ANSWERING QUESTIONS WE HAVE ABOUT CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND POSITIVE PARENTING. I HONESTLY CANNOT IMAGINE SENDING MY DAUGHTER TO KINDERGARTEN WITHOUT HAVING THIS EXPERIENCE WITH THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER. IT IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR COMMUNITY BECAUSE OF IT'S EFFECTIVENESS IN ENRICHING THE LIVES OF FAMILIES, ENHANCING KINDERGARTEN READINESS, AND PROVIDING SUCH A POSITIVE AND MEANINGFUL WAY FOR FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY TO COME TOGETHER!