



25 Years in the Making and Still Growing STRONG!

Susan Leger-Ferraro is the Founder, CEO, and Innovator of Little Sprouts Enrichment Centers. She has been realizing her dream of educating young children since she was 17 and opened a small center in Methuen, calling it Susan's Playpen. In October 1984, Susan purchased a larger house in Methuen and re-opened as Little Sprouts Child Enrichment Centers. As time went on, the word spread around the community about the great things that Susan was accomplishing at her center and her dream began to grow immensely. This was the start of something great for the local communities, and for early education.

25 years later, Little Sprouts has grown to 6 locations across the Merrimack Valley area along with recently opening up their 7th newest location in Roxbury at Roxbury Community College. Within these 25 years, Little Sprouts has received national recognition from the U.S. Department of Education for the quality of their programs, having been named a Preschool Center of Educational Excellence and awarded the prestigious Early Reading First Grant two times, once in September 2003 for \$1.5M and again in September 2006 for \$3.49M. Susan has been recognized as an "Intriguing Individual of the North Shore" by *North Shore Living* in 2005, was named Top 100 Woman Led Business in Massachusetts by Babson College in 2007, and was awarded the 2007 International ATHENA Award for her empowerment of professional women in the Massachusetts workforce.

To help show their gratitude to the local community for growing with Little Sprouts, Susan is hosting a 25 Year Gala on December 8th at 7:00p.m. at Salvatore's Restaurant in Lawrence at the Riverwalk. The gala will feature a silent auction where proceeds are going to be donated to the Doug Flutie Foundation and to the Literacy and Leadership Foundation. For more information about the gala please contact Jessica Todisco at 781-929-2858.

About Little Sprouts Child Enrichment Centers

Little Sprouts Child Enrichment Centers have been leaders in exceptional early education and care since 1982, focusing on academic and the metacognition of children, teachers and families. From the beginning, Little Sprouts has been committed to creating a holistic experience for children, combining an enchanting atmosphere and scientifically based curriculum with an outstanding range of services. Little Sprouts centers include seven sites in Andover, Methuen, Lowell, Lawrence, Haverhill, Westford and Roxbury. For more information visit www.littlesprouts.com

For additional information, please contact: Jessica Todisco, Community Specialist, jtodisco@littlesprouts.com

