



Paxton Campus

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OPEN DOOR LEARNING CENTER ON PAXTON CAMPUS

OPENS AN ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND

Leesburg, Virginia – May 21, 2015 – On Friday, June 12, at 1:30pm, Open Door Learning Center (ODLC) will officially open its accessible playground during the preschool graduation program. ODLC is an accredited inclusive school for students, ages 2 to 7 years, with and without disabilities.

The accessible and inclusive playground was designed for children with and without developmental disabilities. The equipment was specifically chosen to incorporate different kinds of sensory movements: spinning, rocking, swinging, which are both calming and stimulating activities for children with developmental disabilities.

“What an exciting way to celebrate ODLC’s 5 year anniversary, by opening a playground designed to stimulate children’s imaginations, and create opportunities for children to develop social, physical and sensory skills while playing and exercising,” said Christine Favréaux, ODLC’s Administrative Director, “This playground exemplifies ODLC’s philosophy that children of all abilities benefit from being able to play and interact *together*, in an inclusive environment.”

ODLC’s new playground was funded by many generous donors, including the parents of ODLC students past and present, The Nicholas Blanco Foundation, and The Meil Family Foundation, in addition to many supporters from the greater community.

There to help celebrate the grand opening of the playground will be Leesburg Mayor Kristen Umstatt, who will be cutting the ribbon alongside the students, staff and teachers of ODLC.

ODLC is located in Leesburg, Virginia, on the historic Paxton Campus. In 1922, Rachel Paxton had a vision to turn her home and property into a safe and welcoming environment for underprivileged children and families. In 1967, a group of parents whose children had special needs formed The Arc of Loudoun, a non-profit to start a school for their children when no one else would. In 2010, those two visions combined when The Arc of Loudoun moved to the Paxton Campus. Since then, the Campus has grown into a full-service organization to provide an integrated and innovative learning environment for all ages and abilities. Programs include Open Door Learning Center, The Aurora School, STEP Up vocational training program for adults, and ALLY (“A Life Like Yours”) Advocacy Center, all devoted to serving people with disabilities and their families, as well as helping children of all abilities thrive in our community.

For more information, visit www.paxtoncampus.org or contact Rachel Roseberry, Communications Coordinator of Paxton Campus, at rroseberry@paxtoncampus.org or by phone at 703.777.1939.

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