



Contact: Catherine Edison
(603) 422-8223; Fax (603) 422-8227
email: cedison@communitycampus.org
website: www.communitychildcarenh.org

**For Immediate Release:
Portsmouth Music & Arts Center and Community Child Care
Center forging a Partnership**

Portsmouth, NH (January 19, 2012)- Portsmouth Music & Arts Center (PMAC) has formed a partnership with Community Child Care Center of Portsmouth (CCCC) to engage more children in art activities year round. CCCC Operations Director Deb Stokel, started the *Arts & Children Together* program at the center years ago, to introduce a variety of art to children. "We've had performance artists from various schools and organizations perform plays and do concerts, and have always wanted to expand our calendar for older preschoolers, kindergartners and school-age children," said Deb Stokel. "Literacy and math skills can be developed through music, and we want to build on what we already do in our Creative Curriculum."

PMAC's executive director Russ Grazier said he is planning a spring calendar of events, a jazz concert, and a Petting Zoo of instruments at the Community Campus for a start. "Children from age 4 and up have a great curiosity for instruments, but are still building their fine motor skills. Providing a petting zoo lets them see, touch, and experiment with playing the instruments," said Grazier. "The curiosity is there at a very young age, and we want them to explore by trying to blow a note on a trombone, bow a violin, and play on a real drum set."

The Portsmouth Music and Arts Center is a nonprofit community music and arts school located at 75 Albany Street in Portsmouth. Educational offerings for community members of all ages include private instruction in visual arts, a variety of musical instruments and voice, ensembles for players of all ages and ability levels, visual arts classes for kids, Music and Art Therapy, youth rock and jazz bands, group music classes for young children, and weekly adult ensembles including band, strings, blues and jazz. PMAC also offers a wide variety of summer camps for kids of all ages. PMAC strives to make art education accessible to all and provides financial assistance to families in need. Call the PMAC office at 603-431-4278 for details, or visit www.PMAOnline.org.

Founded in 1967, the Community Child Care Center of Portsmouth is a private non-profit organization that provides quality child care, early education, before & after school programming, and full-day summer camps to children in the seacoast area. CCCC is the third largest licensed child care center in the state and its Early Childhood programs are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. CCCC has school-age programs in all three Portsmouth Elementary Schools and Greenland Central School, and all-inclusive preschool at Community Campus and Greenland Central School as well. CCCC serves all children in the seacoast, with a mission to prioritize child care for families in need. Learn more at communitychildcarenh.org, email acole@communitycampus.org, or call 603-422-8223.