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Little Lukes: Opportunity and Care

By Angel Hall, Creative Writing and Communication Double Major

If you are near Burkle Street in Oswego, you may hear the sound of infants laughing, toddlers playing, or young children learning their ABCs. These are the sounds of Little Lukes, a privately owned, for-profit preschool and childcare center. The center is a safe environment and provides quality care for children from infants to toddlers to begin developing critical social, emotional, and developmental skills. Little Lukes also takes in children with developmental and special needs based on need and availability; they are certified by the New York State Education Department. Little Lukes has been proud to serve the children of Oswego County and across the region for the past 21 years, and they expect many more years of service to come. They also hope more options like Little Lukes are brought to Oswego to help the many children that need a safe place to learn and grow.

Meg Kellogg is Oswego Little Lukes' director and a SUNY Oswego alumna, and Claudia Boyko is a current SUNY Oswego student interning at Little Lukes in support of her study of human development and psychology. Both love and believe wholeheartedly in the good that Little Lukes provides for the community. Both agreed the children that come into their care are treated and loved as if they were one of their own. "You will not meet a more devoted group of people anywhere," Meg said. "What we're doing here — working with other people's children, caring for other people's children, and supporting other people's children — there isn't a more important job on earth than that."

When Claudia was asked about her internship experience and how she feels about working at Little Lukes, she expressed genuine joy for what she's doing. Claudia said that the experience helped her realize that she wanted to continue working in early childhood education even after graduation.

"Starting here, I didn't think I could manage a classroom or expectations because I don't like public speaking. This is hard." Claudia said, "But I got used to managing the behaviors and expectations of six children at once in a classroom with just me. I feel like that's very helpful to know for someone in the same situation as me who wants to teach or go into administration."

Meg added that although Little Lukes is approved through the New York State Department of Education, they don't get student teachers: "But we would love to have them. Especially in special education because we're always looking for special education teachers. I know many people come from out of the area of SUNY Oswego, and they leave and go home to teach, but we always have teaching opportunities."

To Meg, Oswego is her second home, and her family is her joy. She considers her family not only to be her children and her boyfriend, but also the wonderful friends she's made while working for Little Lukes. She loves Lake Ontario and downtown Oswego; she's enjoyed seeing the town grow as she has grown over the years. When asked what she wants to be remembered for, Meg answered, "Authenticity and passion for what we're doing, and someone who supports all in being the best they can be and genuinely enjoying it."

Little Lukes is a place that wants to help and care for the children of the Oswego community. They love and believe in what they do, to the point that it doesn't seem like work to them, despite the hardships that come with early childhood development. It's no cakewalk. There are tantrums, crying, and a lot of hard work. But Claudia said that it is well worth it when you see the next generation of Oswego developing with your help.



Little Lukes and SUNY Oswego

Claudia Boyko, Human Development Major

Meg Kellogg, Little Lukes

