

"The Country Club for Kids" *KiddieKlub*

New mom Jodi Partlo returned to her full-time position just 2 months after having her son Benjamin. "It's hard to leave a child in a strange facility in the care of unfamiliar people." Partlo felt firsthand the need for a center that offered quality care as well as a place that would allow her entire family to feel involved. "I wanted a space that we could all come and play in a safe, healthy, clean, and interactive environment." She envisioned a center where families could spend time together getting to know the staff and surroundings before enrolling their children in one of the many programs offered. A center with lead teachers holding undergraduate degrees in childhood development, following a creative curriculum, offering a healthy fresh menu, and employing energetic staff that loved their work.

Two years later, Partlo's son Ben joined KiddieKlub's first toddler class as the doors to KiddieKlub opened in Rochester Hills, and Partlo's dream of opening a center that "focused on today's parent and their ever-changing needs" came true. KiddieKlub is the only facility of its kind in Michigan that offers an indoor play center, open to the public, within the same building as child care and preschool. Partlo made convenience a priority, choosing the location on Crooks Road, just south of M-59 and a short drive from I-75 specifically for the number of commuters and families that traveled the road.

The new 8,000 square foot center's indoor "open play" space has a private room for birthday parties and features a large play structure complete with slides, a bridge, climbing ropes and balls; it also features a "soft play" area for infants and "wobblers" just getting a feel for being on their feet. A toddler library with bean-

bags, an activity room, and three themed play rooms: a theatre complete with red velvet curtains, puppets and costumes, a transportation station with a train table, cars, and trucks, and a home with a kitchen, play table, and chef's attire. Separate and secure, are the infant room, toddler room, tyke room, and preschool classroom. The children enrolled in the child care or preschool

programs also have access to a private gated 2,000 square foot playground just for them. As an added feature web cams are located in all class rooms so parents can check in on their little one any time during the day and all full-time students receive a free membership for the play center. Partlo said the children "feel like they are a part of the center. They feel that this is their place"- exactly what she was hoping for.

KiddieKlub is a state licensed child care center that offers full-time, part-time, and drop in care for children age 6 weeks – 5 years old. The curriculum is individualized for each child and designed to promote social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development. Child care and preschool is available

Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

KiddieKlub's indoor play center's open play is available Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for parent supervised play. Drop in "play-care" is available Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Birthday parties are available any day, at various times.

KiddieKlub is located at 2897 Crooks Road in Rochester Hills, just north of Auburn Road and south of M-59. Call (248) 852-4012 or visit www.kiddieklub.com for more information.

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