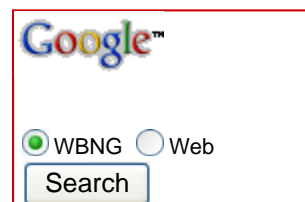




Thursday, June 14, 2007

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Video High

Christine Benjamin of Play Yard Concepts hired 3 more employees to help provide daycare for students at Apalachin Elementary School.

"The kids are excited. My staff is excited," says Benjamin.

And local families are excited.

In April, Growing Years Child Care closed the doors at its daycare center in Owego.

It also shut down its summer and after-school programs for Owego and Apalachin Elementary students, affecting hundreds.

"When Growing Years left we were inundated with phone calls. There were a lot of people in need for childcare," says Benjamin.

Play Yard Concepts starts its summer daycare program at Apalachin Elementary next week.

And the Tioga County Boys and Girls Club moves into Owego Elementary.

"It's a needed service. It was a service that families depended on each summer. And we're fortunate to be able to provide that opportunity," says Don Curtis of the Tioga County Boys & Girls Club.

The Club has already been filling some of the void in after school care.

Now, it's getting ready to transition some of the students back to the elementary school.

"The children that are here are looking forward to the familiarity over there," says Curtis.

Both the Boys and Girls Club and Play Yard Concepts have licenses for the centers at the schools.

So far, each summer program has 25 students enrolled.

But that number is expected to triple once their after-school programs start this fall.

You can still enroll your children in either summer daycare program.

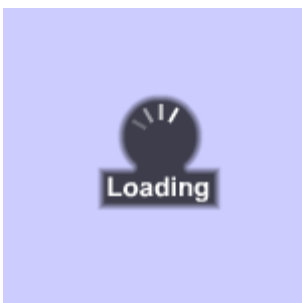
For Owego Elementary, call the Tioga County Boys and Girls club, 687-0690.

For Apalachin Elementary, call Play Yard Concepts, 625-3982.

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