It’s after lunch in Childhaven classroom seven and teacher Kim Cornell is sitting at a kid-sized table with her four and five year old students as they match up images in a game of I Spy.

“It’s Amara’s turn to find the duck,” says Kim, as she skillfully sneaks a puzzle piece closer to a little girl bouncing next to her.

“I found it,” says Amara as she grabs the puzzle piece. “I spy the yellow ducky!”

Kim congratulates her and soon the whole group moves on to helping Alex find a cowboy hat.

Classroom seven plays games after lunch for 15 minutes, four days a week. And while it may seem like it’s all fun and games, it’s actually cutting-edge research.

Childhaven has been collaborating with researchers from the University of California, Berkeley since 2012 to implement a learning-through-play program for four and five year old children. The program focuses on building executive function skills—working memory, mental flexibility, and self-control—in children whose early experiences of abuse or neglect may have delayed their development.

The experiment is backed by the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University’s Frontiers of Innovation (FOI) program, which tests on-the-ground pilots that have the potential to transform the lives of children and families facing adversity in a rapid cycle of learning and adaptation.

Childhaven has completed three rounds of testing and demonstrated significant improvements in the basic behavioral skills kids need to be successful in Kindergarten and beyond, such as sitting still, following directions, and keeping their hands to themselves. Childhaven’s work is now being expand to create a full-fledged curriculum to improve Kindergarten readiness.

Additionally, based on Childhaven’s quality data collection and implementation, the organization has been asked to expand its research role to test similar interventions with five to 10 month old infants, and begin exploring game play in classrooms with two and three year olds.

Childhaven’s project lead is Program Innovation and Implementation Manager Nell Robinson, who works closely with UC Berkeley’s Dr. Silvia Bunge to design interventions.

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SAYING FAREWELL TO OUR FOUNDER

Patrick “Pat” Gogerty, founder of Childhaven and lifelong advocate for children, passed away August 26, 2016. He was 86.

Pat was hired as the executive director of Childhaven in 1973, when it was still Seattle Day Nursery. He spearheaded the creation of a therapeutic child care program in 1977, and changed the organization’s name to Childhaven in 1985 after officially committing to the mission of breaking the cycle of child abuse and neglect. Pat retired in 1998 after 25 years.

“Pat was the visionary who brought us all to the service of children and families who have experienced trauma in the hopes of breaking the cycle of abuse and neglect,” said Beth Larsen, Childhaven’s chief program officer, who worked alongside Pat in the 1990s. “We are grateful he shared his brilliance and energy with us, and his legacy is alive and well at Childhaven today.”

Pat’s wife, Margaret “Maggie” Kennedy Gogerty, preceded him in death in January 2016. Maggie joined the staff at Childhaven as a family therapist in the early 1980s and played a key role in shaping our therapeutic program during her 20 years of service.

“I’ve never met anyone with her energy or ability to cut to the heart of the matter,” said Beth.

As a testament to their dedication and generosity, both Maggie and Pat asked that remembrances be made to Childhaven. They will be greatly missed and always treasured by the Childhaven family.

DOES YOUR COMPANY HAVE A GIVING PROGRAM?
A workplace giving program is an easy and efficient way to make a tax-deductible donation to Childhaven.

“INSURING” A STRONGER COMMUNITY

For the third consecutive year, Board Chair Carl Lovsted and the Nationwide Private Client corporate giving program, Partners In Giving, have helped Childhaven “insure” a better future for children and families with a $5,000 donation.

“Childhaven has always been a part of my personal philanthropy, and now it’s a part of my business, too,” said Carl. “I’m grateful Nationwide Private Client shares my commitment to helping children and stopping the cycle of abuse and neglect.”

Does your company have a giving program? A workplace giving program is an easy and efficient way to make a tax-deductible donation to Childhaven. Many employers will even bolster your commitment by matching your donation!

SAVE THE DATE!
Mark your calendars for the 2017 CELEBRATION LUNCHEON
Tuesday, March 7, 2017
Washington State Convention Center

The Childhaven Luncheon is an hour of inspiration in celebration of you, our generous supporters.
and interpret results. Nell has been with Childhaven for more than 20 years, though her title has recently evolved to better reflect the important role she plays in the advancement of science-based interventions.

“The findings have shown that for children at Childhaven who have faced adversity early in their lives, the quality of implementation is key to the effectiveness of an intervention,” said Nell. “When kids have our teachers guiding them, or ‘scaffolding’ the play experience, we see the most growth.”

Thanks to the success of the learning through play intervention, Childhaven was named a 2016 recipient of the Exemplifying the Mission Award from the International Mind, Brain and Education Society (IMBES).

Nell has also brought this same concept of guided play to Childhaven’s Parent-Child Interactive Therapy. By coaching parents on how to “scaffold” play, she is building the capabilities of parents to support their children’s skills development, and creating the responsive, serve and return interactions that are essential in shaping the architecture of the developing brain.

Thanks to the success of the learning through play intervention, Childhaven was named a 2016 recipient of the Exemplifying the Mission Award from the International Mind, Brain, and Education Society (IMBES). The award recognizes pre-K-12 educators, institutions, or programs demonstrating success in establishing, building, and supporting infrastructure that enhances collaboration between themselves and mind, brain, education researchers for the purpose of improving educational knowledge and practice.

And while recognition is always appreciated, according to Nell, the far-reaching implications of the project are what is most exciting.

“Being able to share our work brought up many more possibilities around refinement of the work and better impact. This will help the families we serve and has the potential to help thousands more beyond our doors.”

FOOTBALL, FRIENDS, AND FUNDRAISING

As the owners of a Seahawks suite at CenturyLink field, Rupa and Rudy Gadre become pretty popular in football season. This year, they decided to put their suite to work raising money for Childhaven.

The Gadre’s invited friends to games all season long and asked them to make a charitable donation in return. And to incentivize giving, they offered to match all donations.

In total, this simple gesture raised $10,000 for Childhaven.

“Our friends amazed us with their generous donations to help children in need, and in turn they got to watch the Seahawks live in action. It was a total win-win for all,” said Rupa.

Thank you, Gadre family and friends for turning game day into happy, healthier childhoods.
MEET DEBBIE & KAYLA

When Debbie took custody of her two year old granddaughter, Kayla, she hadn’t had a child in the house for more than 20 years.

“My home wasn’t set up for a toddler at all. I had no toys, no children’s books, nothing to entertain Kayla, let alone help her learn,” said Debbie. “And I had totally forgotten how to go about my daily life with a kid in tow!”

Luckily for Debbie, Kayla was enrolled at Childhaven’s Broadway branch and, as a part of her treatment plan, the family received monthly home visits.

Home visitation allows Childhaven staff to observe the child’s living environment and family dynamics, and better understand and support the family’s needs. The family gets science-based, therapeutic services tailored to the realities of their homes and lives. A home visitor might watch a dad deal with his toddler’s temper tantrum, and then help him practice new, healthy approaches to parenting challenges.

“Our home visitor was amazing. She helped me set up an age appropriate play area, and taught me so many ways I could turn our daily routine into learning moments for Kayla. It feels really good to know I can be a good teacher!”

Home visitation has proven to be such an effective method for the early detection and prevention of child abuse and neglect that Childhaven is in the process of expanding the program.

Your support can help Childhaven make more homes safer places with stronger families. For all the children like Kayla, please consider making a gift.

MISSION STATEMENT Childhaven heals children and families to stop the cycle of abuse and neglect.

OUR VISION is a community where child abuse and neglect no longer exist.