

NEW BRITAIN HERALD

The Learning Experience opens with ribbon cutting

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By JOHNNY J. BURNHAM STAFF WRITER

BERLIN — Right on the Berlin-New Britain line on High Road sits a new building, which is home to a place children can get a jump start on their education.

And while its doors officially opened last month, The Learning Experience celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the occasion. Mayor Adam Salina and Economic Development Director Jim Mahoney were in attendance to welcome the new business to the community.

“This is really nice. Families need these services these days,” Mahoney said. “It’s a big need and we think this place is going to be a big asset in town.”

The mayor echoed Mahoney. Salina said with both dad and mom working full-time jobs to support their families these days, day-cares and places like The Learning Experience in which children can obtain an early childhood education, are crucial.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for Berlin families and their children,” he said.

Co-owner of the Berlin facility, Esther Facari, said she and her fellow owners (Edward Facari Sr. and Edward Facari Jr.) are thrilled to be in town. And more importantly, she added, the children are loving what the state-of-the-art center has to offer.

“What makes us really happy is when the kids don’t even want to go home,” she said. “They love it here.”

This is the second The Learning Experience franchise owned by the Facari family. They own and operate a facility in Cromwell, which was also the first TLE in the state. The Berlin center is the third TLE in Connecticut; with one also in Newtown. There are 198 locations nationwide.

The Berlin TLE, located at 9 High Road, has a capacity for 171 students, from the age of six weeks to five years old. It features both indoor and outdoor play areas, as well as classrooms. It’s open weekdays from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Facari said everything they do centers around two things — safety and education. She said from infant classrooms to preschool and kindergarten, The Learning Experience provides foundational tools for children to embrace cognitive skills necessary for educational advancement. Doing so, she added, makes transition into grammar school quite easy.

“There’s almost no transition at all,” she said.

For more information contact TLE at (860) 224-0411.