

## PRESCHOOL UNDER THE GODDARD SCHOOL FRANCHISE TO OPEN IN YORKTOWN

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**The preschool is set to open next month in time for the new school year.**

By Plamena Pesheva • August 23, 2011



*April Fatato (right) with her mother Gloria who will be helping with the business aspect of the school Credit Photo Courtesy of April Fatato*

The nationally popular preschool franchise, The Goddard School®, is set to open its doors next month in Yorktown, becoming the first one in Westchester County and third one in the state.

April Fatato, 30, who taught third and fourth grade in the Bronx for seven years, is opening the school, alongside her parents as business partners. She learned of Goddard Services, Inc. after her father saw a newspaper advertisement offering opportunities to open a Goddard franchise.

After finishing her undergraduate work at Manhattanville College, Fatato got a job at the newly opened Goddard School in Suffern to get the experience and said she “absolutely loved it.”

“What I loved about Goddard was their emphasis on learning through play and their FLEX™ learning program, which basically focuses on child-centered teachable moments and that’s how the teachers develop their lesson plans,” she said.

The Goddard School, founded in 1986, is a licensed school for infant to school age children, with a focus on early childhood education and development. There are more than 370 franchise preschool locations across the country.

All Goddard Schools are operated through a dual management system, with an on-site manager who implements the educational program under the supervision of the franchise director. Fatato is the Yorktown school’s onsite operator.

Fatato grew up in Tarrytown and moved to Rockland County a few years ago. She said she got into education because of a fourth grade teacher who helped her when she was struggling in school. She said she always knew she wanted to be a teacher and while teaching at the Bronx was challenging, she said she thought there was more she could offer in a child’s life and looked into early childhood.

“I have always endured a love for children and understanding of how they learn through multiple intelligences and interaction,” Fatato said.

Fatato’s background includes being a teacher in the Bronx for seven years, as well as being a supervisor for a tutoring program at Westchester Medical Center for foster care children. She has a dual Masters’ in literacy and special education and a Bachelor’s Degree in psychology/education from Manhattanville College. Fatato is currently working toward her doctorate degree in early childhood education with a specialization in social change from Walden University.

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When deciding where to open her school, she looked at two different locations but ultimately chose Yorktown.

“We chose Yorktown because the community is excellent,” she said. “Such a family-oriented community. There is tons of events and carnivals. I fell in love with that aspect and there is so much support in Yorktown, so I just couldn’t think of a better place than there.”

And her business is family oriented as well. Her parents, who had their own successful business for 25 years, will be the investors and her business partners at the school.

“Learning is not the way it used to be,” Fatato said. “You really have to find how the child learns best and the teachers get to know one-on-one how a child learns in different situations.”

Fatato has goals the school must meet and achievements that children must reach by a specific age. Lesson plans are based on those goals, but at the same time she said she wants children to learn through play and have fun.

The school building is 10,000 square feet, and it features 10 classrooms, a multi-purpose room and has capacity for 126 students.

“I live for the moment where a child’s face just lights up,” Fatato said. “That’s what I live for. So as much as I could do that, I plan to. I love to be creative. I have so many amazing ideas and I just can’t wait to put them into motion and to make an impact on these young lives I have in my hands and I take it very seriously. I want to be the most beneficial experience for them and be supportive to the parents.”

For more information on the new Goddard School, located at 62 Triangle Center in Yorktown Heights, call (914) 245-2864 or [click here](#).

