

The Arc Bright Beginnings
Day Care Center
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Bright Beginnings
and
Early Intervention Services

CHILDREN'S SERVICES
ADMINISTRATOR
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www.secondchancetoys.org

In May, The Arc's Bright Beginnings Inclusive Day Care Center received a generous donation of gently used toys from **Second Chance Toys**, an organization created by 16 year old, Sasha Lipton (pictured above left), a junior at Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights. The goal of this unique program is to keep as many heavy plastic, mold injected toys out of the landfills as possible. At first the toy kitchens, work benches, toy grills and picnic tables were picked up at curbs in front of the homes of family's that no longer had need for them. Fully supporting their daughter's vision, Sasha's parents would drive through neighboring towns, loading the family van with the precious toys, bringing them home where the items were soaped, scrubbed clean, and power washed. After giving new life to the toys, local organizations were contacted to see if the program and/or if families that were being served could benefit from the beautifully refurbished toys. Sasha shared, 'Children and the environment are my passion. There is such waste in our country. Especially here in America, no child needs to be without toys. There are more than enough gently used toys to go around if all of us would simply take the time to recycle what we no longer needed.' Sasha's grandfather is so proud of her efforts that he carries a folder of Sasha's newspaper stories sharing them with anyone that will listen. As he passes yard sales, he asks if the family would like to donate items to his granddaughter's project. A friend of Sasha's has made it a part of her community service project at school to request donations from the Princeton community. Once collected, all the toys will be transported to Sasha's magical workshop. Sasha would love to see Second Chance Toys grow and develop throughout not only New Jersey but all over the country. Lipton concluded, 'What I do is extremely labor intensive but seeing the expressions of joy on the children's faces when they take off the wrapping of their 'NEW' toys makes it all worthwhile!'