



SMITHFIELD – Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee made a special trip Tuesday morning to visit children at the Dr. Day Care Learning Center on Douglas Pike. Chafee toured the facility and read the best-selling children’s book “Chicka Chicka Boom Boom” to a large group of preschoolers and toddlers.

The visit was planned as part of the Week of the Young Child, an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

Chafee’s love for children was evident as he joked with the small ones and allowed them to finish lines of the book during his reading.

“We truly appreciate Governor Chafee taking time out of his busy schedule to visit us today,” said Amy Vogel, Dr. Day Care’s vice president of business operations. “Early education is a vital step in preparing our children for success, and it’s wonderful to have the governor acknowledge that.”

With six locations throughout the state – Cumberland, Foster, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Smithfield and West Warwick – Dr. Day Care is one of the leaders in early childhood education. The company’s president, Dr. Mary Ann Shallcross Smith, has been involved in child care for more than 40 years and knows just how pivotal it is to get children started on the right path.

“Dr. Day Care’s philosophy is built around a creative curriculum that allows children to learn and grow at their own pace,” said Shallcross Smith. “Our high-quality education program provides experience for our children and families to grow and learn together as a family and as part of the community.”