

## **Berkeley Heights YMCA Preschool Teacher Recognized**

Mary Lou Mayfield of Union, a Preschool Teacher at Berkeley Heights YMCA Child Care Center, has been awarded a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential in recognition of her outstanding work with young children. The credential was awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition in Washington, DC, which represents the early childhood education profession. CDA a major national effort to improve early childhood education and care by evaluating and recognizing the skills of individuals providing care for preschool children. Parents who use early education and care are especially concerned today about their children's welfare. With this in mind, as part of the CDA Assessment process, every candidate for the CDA Credential is observed working with young children or families by an early childhood professional. In addition, the candidate must demonstrate the ability to work with families to develop children's physical and intellectual capabilities in a safe and healthy learning environment.

Mayfield, who has an Associate degree in education and a Bachelor's degree in science, has worked with children of all ages. In addition to raising three children of her own, she has worked with the Weekday Nursery at the former First Congregational Church, provided school-age child care in her home, volunteered with the Pre-Kindergarten at the former Hamilton School, volunteered for Girl Scouts for 10 years, and was the Essex County 4-H Program Associate for 14 years. She says, "Given the chance to work full-time with preschoolers, I wanted to have a better understanding of their developmental needs and give them the best educational program possible."

The Berkeley Heights YMCA offers several child programs at its newly expanded facility at 550 Springfield Avenue in Berkeley Heights. Tiny Tots is the preschool program for children 3 ½ to 5 years, and is offered as a full day or half day session. Other childcare programs include Kindergarten Wrap Around enrichment, and Afterschool child care for children in grades 1 to 5. Free transportation is provided to and from local school. Extended care and holiday care is also available. Financial assistance is also available. For more information about the Berkeley Heights YMCA Preschool, Kindergarten Wrap Around and Afterschool programs, contact Jennifer Currao, Child

Care Director, at (908) 464-8301, [jencurrao@berkeleyheightsymca.org](mailto:jencurrao@berkeleyheightsymca.org). Or visit [www.summitareaymca.org](http://www.summitareaymca.org)