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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Children's Museum of the East End announces funding award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to support community outreach and professional development

Bridgehampton, NY—The Institute of Museum and Library Services has awarded the Children's Museum of the East End a grant of \$41,250 to launch a new educational initiative entitled "Play/Practice." The initiative combines outreach programming for hundreds of low-income preschool children in the community with professional development for early childhood educators. Children's Museum educators will partner initially with children and teachers at the Wuneechanunk Preschool and the five Head Start centers located on the East End.

Originating from conversations with under-resourced early childhood educators in the community, the program is modeled after the Museum's play-based field trips that CMEE currently offers. In addition to a one-hour play-based workshop for children, Play/Practice meetings will include one hour of reflection and discussion with teachers. The program will serve more than 450 children and 26 early childhood educators throughout the school year.

"We are honored to receive this award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services," said Steve Long, the Museum's President. "The funding of this program allows us further our mission to foster learning for children of all backgrounds and abilities and to build strong connections within the East End community by providing playful experiences."

This is the second grant the Children's Museum has been awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Last year, the Museum received funding to support "Science Connections," an after school program designed to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs and careers for English and Spanish speaking children and their families through an interactive, cross-cultural experience.

"Play/Practice' is a fantastic example of the growing role that the Children's Museum plays in the East End community," added Liz Bard, the Museum's Education Coordinator. "Not only will kids have the time of their lives during the workshops, it allows us to work with educators and provide a foundation upon which to build success in the classroom."

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For more information about "Play/Practice," please contact:

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About the Children's Museum of the East End

The Children's Museum of the East End is one of the most visited museums in Eastern Long Island, and welcomes over 65,000 visitors annually. The Museum opened in 2005 and offers over 7,000 square feet of interactive, hands-on exhibits, classrooms, and performance space. The Museum's mission is "to spark imagination and foster learning for children of all backgrounds and abilities and to build strong connections within the East End community by providing playful experiences." For more information, please visit www.cmee.org.