

For Immediate Release

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Back to School: UCP of NYC of Staten Island Offers Integrated and Special Needs Technology Driven Preschool Programs

New York, NY, September 7, 2016— The Staten Island Preschool Program at United Cerebral Palsy of New York City (UCP of NYC) will open its doors to students on September 8, 2016.

The UCP of NYC Staten Island School has two (2) classes for typical and integrated universal Pre-K (UPK) students and six (6) classes designed to support special education students. For the first time this year, the UPK program at Staten Island will be participating in a *Building Blocks Foundation for Mathematical Thinking Curriculum* supported in part by the National Science Foundation.

“The UCP of NYC UPK integrated and special needs classes have a strong focus on technology in the classrooms – that hasn’t been typical of most UPK programs in the city,” said Liz Voluz, Director of the Staten Island’s Children’s Program.

“For several years, we have been investing in latest technologies such as iPads, smart boards, and sharing libraries so that our students have access to the latest tools while working in small classroom settings with special education teachers and assistants,” added Ms. Voluz. “This also speaks volumes about UCP of NYC’s commitment to education and makes us well-positioned for the new *Building Blocks* program this fall.”

Building Blocks builds on children’s love of patterns, counting and shapes to develop foundational understandings and skills. UPK teaching staff participated in a three-day training at Brooklyn College to prepare to implement *Building Blocks*, which has programs designed to work with interactive white boards and other computer devices.

Parent orientations will be scheduled to review the *Building Blocks* curriculum as well. This year, the Grandmothers of South Shore Grandmothers Club provided funds to purchase an *Equals Pre-K* kit, which contains instructional materials to teach math skills to early learners of all abilities. This school year will begin with children exploring manipulatives of squares, circles, and dice to enhance their critical learning skills.

To welcome children to their first day of school and help them get to know their fellow students is an exciting commitment to provide quality education. The Staten Island Preschool Program at UCP of NYC anticipates many eager students at the beginning of this coming school year!

About United Cerebral Palsy of New York City

United Cerebral Palsy of New York City, Inc. (UCP of NYC) is the leading nonprofit agency in New York City providing direct services, technology and advocacy to children and adults with cerebral palsy and other disabilities. UCP of NYC offers a breadth of more than 85 comprehensive programs including medical, clinical, educational, technological, residential and rehabilitative services to over 18,000 New York City residents and families annually. Our services are delivered by a staff of more than 3,000 trained and dedicated individuals, including a number of employees who have disabilities themselves. The mission of United Cerebral Palsy of New York City is to create opportunities for people with disabilities to lead independent and fulfilling lives.

For more information about our programs and services, please visit: www.ucpnyc.org.