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# Canton

# LIFE

## Education

### *The Little Green Tambourine welcomes children for play and activity*

by Mark Jahne

Parents are always looking for new and interesting activities for their children, so a pair of teachers decided they would fulfill that need.

Suzanne DeRosa of Farmington and Megan Nisenson of Burlington are partners and co-founders of a new child-oriented business called the Little Green Tambourine. It's located at 166 Albany Turnpike in a cluster of set-back buildings not far from Margarita's.

"We met each other through teaching," Ms. DeRosa said. The mother of three added "we really like to get down with the kids."

"We're both really interested in health" as well, Ms. Nisenson said.

All of their toys and play items are non-toxic. The same is true of the cleaning products they use.

The Little Green Tambourine offers a variety of activities with a basic theme of music and movement. The target clientele is children from birth to 13.

"Any child with any learning style can get something out of it," said Ms. DeRosa. "Any child at any level can get something from this."

"We are both certified kids yoga instructors" and that will be one of the offerings, Ms. Nisenson added. "It helps them build muscles, coordination, motor skills."

In addition to yoga, there will be healthy cooking (no nuts or meat), voice lessons and improvisational theater.

Their 90-minute "signature class" is called Musical Adventure and incorporates yoga, music, movement, a healthy snack and art.

They will also offer theme birthday parties. Real plates, not paper ones, will be used to be more green by reducing the amount of trash. Pizza and ice cream will be purchased from the Flatbread Company and Ben & Jerry's at the nearby Shoppes at Farmington Valley.

Birthday parties include use of the studio for two and a half hours, environmentally friendly decorations, all tableware, games and activities, clean up and supervision, plus a special gift. Additional options

*Suzanne DeRosa (left) and Megan Nisenson are partners in a new child-oriented venture called the Little Green Tambourine.*



include an organic birthday cake, healthy catered lunch or snacks and more.

The party cost is \$300 for as many as 10 children.

Although programs at their new Canton location don't officially begin until September 15, the partners are already busy at work.

"We're running programs for the Boys & Girls Club and the Village for Families and Children" in Hartford, said Ms. Nisenson.

They are also hosting a free event in support of Healthy Child/Healthy World at 2 p.m. August 16. Other organizations they support include End Hunger CT, Green Halloween, local YMCAs, local Earth Day events and Treeswing, a non-profit organization that aims to get children outside playing and thus becoming more physically fit.

Activities are non-competitive and will be tailored to the ages of the children.

The Little Green Tambourine will open at 9:30 a.m. for the preschool crowd and welcome school-age children at 3:30 p.m.

"We really enjoy the process of encouraging them and being there ... we want to allow them to express themselves," Ms. Nisenson said.

Parents will be welcomed into a bright reception area. The entire facility enjoys plentiful light through its large storefront windows.

"This is our dream, to be able to work with kids and teach them through the creative process," she said.

Ms. DeRosa said one of the reasons why they chose the word tambourine to be part of their name is because "the tambourine is an instrument everyone can play."

She has been working with children for nearly 20 years, most recently as a pre-kindergarten teacher. She is continuing her studies in early childhood education, specializing in music.

She has had formal vocal training and is in the process of writing her first album of children's songs.

As a birth and post-partum doula, she provides support and encouragement to parents.

Ms. Nisenson holds a bachelor of science degree in psychology with a concentration in child psychology from Fordham University. She is studying toward a master's in education at Central Connecticut State University.

She plays guitar and sings. She has participated in creative arts therapy for special needs children.

Vocal lessons will be provided by Amanda Nisenson, a mezzo-soprano. She has performed lead roles in numerous operas. **CL**

For additional information call 352-5504 or visit [www.thelittlegreentambourine.com](http://www.thelittlegreentambourine.com).