

## Valuable service

As full-time working parents of two children, quality childcare is something of great importance to us. For that reason, we entrust our children's care to the Westport Weston Family Y. Their accredited childcare program (infant to preschool) is giving our son a wonderful foundation for the years ahead. Our daughter does her homework and has the opportunity to engage in fun activities with friends the Y's after school program.

Our community is fortunate to have these services provided by the Family Y. Though the childcare staff couldn't be more caring and attentive to the kids' needs, it isn't perfect. In the current facility, the childcare program is housed in the basement level. There's no outdoor space and the children are bused to Mahackeno to play when the weather permits — or they walk up and down Main Street in strollers or tethered together.

We support having a Family Y in Westport and look forward to the day when there is a new facility with an above-ground childcare rooms and lots of outdoor space for the kids to run and play. The possibility that Westport could be without a Y is daunting; hundreds of families' childcare options would diminish. The childcare programs provided by the Family Y are a valuable service to our community. We trust they will continue in Westport.

*Mark & Kim Mathias  
Westport*