

On August 26, family and friends watched as 9 classes of children celebrated their graduation from the Fraser-Ford Child Development Center at a ceremony held in Waban's Training Center. A total of 42 graduates will be entering kindergarten, a remarkable number of individuals succeeding under the care and teamwork of families, teachers, therapists and a licensed clinician. They have received speech, occupational or physical therapy for social, language and self-help skill-building. Grateful parents appreciated the opportunity to thank their children's teachers and in a letter to her son's teacher, one mom wrote, "Waban has played a key role in turning my son's life around. You have given a little boy wings to fly. "

Meg Waters, Director, said, "As a former Director of Special Education, it is heartening to know that children are graduating from the Fraser-Ford Child Development Center with the skills, experiences and knowledge that will help them become successful and independent learners in public school." It is undisputed that Early Intervention efforts for children with special needs lead to children with more independence, innumerable successes, and a significantly reduced need for other services throughout their lifetime. Over the course of one year, Waban's children's programs provide services to over 300 children and families throughout York County, giving the phrase "back to school" new hope for the parents of children with special needs.