



Office of Economic and Community Development News Release

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City Celebrates Relocation of A Blooming Child Petite Academy *“Business opens in Jackson Ward with city assistance”*

Richmond, VA - The city of Richmond celebrates the relocation of A Blooming Child Petite Academy on Thursday, September 9 at 4:30 p.m., at their new 300 West Clay Street location. A Blooming Child Petite Academy is opening in Jackson Ward with financial assistance from the city’s Department of Economic and Community Development’s [Commercial Area Revitalization Effort Program](#) (CARE).

Melissa Terranova, owner of A Blooming Child Petite Academy, received her undergraduate degree in Graphic Design from Florida Atlantic University. Terranova moved to New York to pursue a career in the graphic design industry and later began working for her mother-in-law, who owns a child care facility. “I was working for her for about six months when I realized I wasn’t trying to find design work. I actually really loved what I was doing,” said Terranova. After a year of working in the child care field, she went back to school and obtained a masters degree in early childhood special education from Mercy College. “I smile and laugh everyday when I’m at work and quite honestly, I can’t imagine doing anything else.”

Prior to the relocation, Terranova operated the family day home child care business from her residence for approximately two years. Due to an increased interest, she began searching for a larger facility that allowed for growth but was still small and personable.

A Blooming Child Petite Academy provides child care services for six-week old infants through preschool aged children (three - four years old). Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The CARE program operates through a partnership between local neighborhood merchants, residents, and the city of Richmond. The Department of Economic and Community Development in partnership with the Richmond Economic Development Authority provides business rebates and loans for CARE area businesses.

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