



Princeton Nursery School Teacher Wins National Award

PRINCETON – Cynthia Thompson of Princeton Nursery School has been named a 2010 recipient of the Terri Lynne Lokoff/Children’s Tylenol National Child Care Teacher Award

Ms. Thompson, who teaches 24 4- and 5-year-olds at PNS, received the award for “Literacy Cooking Boxes,” for her students to “immerse, engage and involve themselves with the theme and/or characters of the books in the boxes.”

“For example, a box labeled “Restaurant” would contain several age-appropriate books on restaurants.... And the children would also find tablecloths, place settings, order pads, menu-holders with child-made menus in them, play food for the type of restaurant, waiter/waitress aprons and name tags.” The children could read the books or have them read to them, and play restaurant by recreating the story or making up their own, according to Ms. Thompson.

She envisions Grocery Store, Firehouse, Pet Shop and Camping boxes as well, which “would bring concepts and great children’s literature alive for them.”

The Terri Lynne Lokoff Child Care Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to improving child care and education via improved programs for children from birth to five years. The awards are given for educational, age-appropriate projects teachers design for their classrooms. Each recipient will receive funding to implement the program and a cash award to recognize her/his dedication to teaching.

In her application for the award, Ms Thompson wrote: “I have noticed that although clothing, toys and other fads come and go, and with ever increasing technology available even for pre-schoolers, that young children still learn best in an atmosphere of love, encouragement and personal support from both teacher and parent. There is still no substitute for a one-on-one educational interaction between a caring adult and a young, inquisitive child.”

Ms. Thompson, whose teaching career began more than 40 years ago, has taught at PNS for five years. PNS is a private, non-profit school serving predominantly low-income families in Princeton.