



## Beginners First Academy Believes In Successful Education



Administrator: Alexandra Southrey  
Owner/Director: Erica Samuelson

- **Beginners First Academy was started with one goal in mind; to put children first.**

Through Erica Samuelson's and Alexandra Southrey's fourteen years of combined experience they have found this to be the most important component of a successful early childhood education experience.

BFA will be the first licensed child care center in Weymouth

Township. A child's day at BFA will be full of learning and fun, this all centered around a safe and nurturing environment. BFA provides care for children 6 weeks to 5 years old full day, as well as before & after school and summer camp for students 6 years old to 12 years old.

The Academy has been newly renovated to provide children with a space built for learning, laughter, and safety! BFA has affordable tuition with very flexible scheduling. Tuition includes nutritional meals: breakfast,

lunch and snacks for all ages, prepared on premise in their kitchen. Cot and crib sheets and blankets are cleaned and provided by the Academy. Saturday hours will also be available during the holiday season for all students.

At Beginners First Academy, the staff understands what an important family decision choosing a child care provider is. BFA provides everything needed to create successful early childhood education. The Academy provides mid-year & end-year

parent/teacher conferences individually for each child enrolled. 'CONNECT first!' daily notes completed by the children's teacher keeps communication a key element in their program. Please call to schedule an appointment to tour the Academy.

● *To see all of our wonderful classrooms in action and to experience how the above is utilized on a daily basis, please contact us for more information and also to schedule a tour of the Academy.*



Putting Children First

● Erica Samuelson  
Owner/Director

Alexandra Southrey  
Administrator

609-829-2292  
fax: 609-829-2299

1201 Boulevard RT.50  
Weymouth NJ 08330

beginnersfirstacademy@comcast.net  
www.bfa.comcastbiz.net



### OUR UNIQUE ATTRIBUTES:

- \* Convenient Hours of 6am-6pm Monday - Friday
- \* Flexible Scheduling
- \* Provides care for children 6 weeks through 5 years old full day
- \* Before and After School Care for students 6 years through 12 years old
- \* Summer Camp for children 6 years old through 12 years old
- \* Saturday Hours available during the holiday season for ALL students
- \* Tuition includes breakfast, lunch and snack
- \* Provides cot sheets and blankets
- \* Fenced in playground for large motor skills and outdoor investigation
- \* Teacher/child ratio in accordance with New Jersey State Regulations
- \* Security system, buzzer entry and electronic sign in
- \* Wrap - around provider for Weymouth Township School District
- \* Additional Body Movement classes available



609-829-2292  
www.bfa.comcastbiz.net

## Atlantic County Woman's Book Corner - Book Review

### Groundbreaking Book Helps Pet Owners Cope During a Pet's Terminal Illness

#### Simple yet powerful strategies found for dealing with anticipatory grief

An award-winning new memoir is shedding light on a serious problem many pet lovers struggle with and few find help for. It's the very real pain they go through from the time they learn their pet has a terminal illness until the last goodbye. Many books have been written on dealing with the grief and loss an owner feels *after* a pet dies, but until now there has been no help for the intense feelings of anxiety, powerless and even depression that can arise *during* the illness. This is known as anticipatory grief.

"A book with lessons on dealing with the dying of a pet is sorely needed these days," explains author Doug Koktavy. He wrote *The Legacy of Beezer and Boomer: Lessons on Living and Dying from My Canine Brothers* because he couldn't find help for his own out-of-control emotions and wanted to share with others the coping strategies he learned. "More than half of Americans consider their pets as family; some say the number is closer to eighty percent," he says. "That is a huge number of people who will be outliving their 'children.' My story describes my three-year journey when both my beloved Labrador retrievers got diagnoses of fatal illnesses.

I was a wreck until I realized the help I needed was right under my nose."

Conquering fear and guilt and learning to live in the present are just two of the lessons from the dogs. It all started with a pronouncement from his veterinarian that Beezer had ninety days to live. Shocked and unable to come to grips with the knowledge that he suddenly was losing his best friend, Doug grew frantic with fear. His work and his own health began to suffer as he chastised himself over what he might have neglected to do for his dog. What followed were some of the lowest lows and some of the highest

highs of his life as Doug said goodbye first to Beezer and then to his brother Boomer.

Anticipatory grief is a term that typically applies to situations in which a person is facing the impending death of *another person* and is experiencing loss, sadness, fear and even physical illness. This groundbreaking book describes how these debilitating emotions can occur when pets are departing-and how pet owners can find acceptance and peace during these difficult times.

*The Legacy of Beezer and Boomer: Lessons on Living and Dying from My Canine Brothers*, won first place for self-help books in the Colorado Independent Publishers Association 2010 Book Awards.

#### About the author:

Doug Koktavy is a creditor's attorney in Denver. An avid sportsman, he has played ice hockey for years and competed in triathlons. Today he enjoys sharing his free time volunteering for local nonprofit animal organizations. He also has developed two affiliate programs-one, for nonprofits, is called the B Brothers Nonprofit Project. The second affiliate program is for for-profit pet businesses.

