

Award for Day Care Center

The East Hampton School District has been honored for its collaboration with the East Hampton Day Care Center to provide free prekindergarten classes for children of East Hampton residents and a half-day of child care for the children of working parents in the district.

The Magna Award, presented annually by the American School Board Journal, recognizes "outstanding programs that advance student learning and encourage community involvement." East Hampton, one of 23 districts honored, was among 350 applicants for the award.

The award will be presented at the National School Board Association conference in Orlando, Fla., on March 29.

The Day Care Center moved to the John Marshall Elementary School property from dilapidated quarters on Cedar Street in East Hampton after East Hampton School Board members John Ryan and Laura Anker Grossman, along with Charles Hitchcock and H. David Wilt, drafted a proposal for the project about six years ago.

For a time, there was adult day care at the site as well, and senior citizens interacted with the prekindergartners each day. When Hillary Clinton, then the First Lady, visited the center, she

called it "a model for the nation."

The center, which has both Spanish and English-speaking staff, "is the place where the diversity of this community comes together," Ms. Grossman said. "We have 100 children on the waiting list. The best investment a school district can make is in a prekindergarten program." B.N.

On Theories Of Teaching

Primary and secondary school teachers who would like to learn about "current theories in the instruction of writing" and get six continuing education credits while they do so can enroll in the "East End Reading and Writing Project," to be offered at Southampton College from June 28 to July 23, four days per week. The project is intended to improve teachers' classroom skills as well.

Linda Bausch, an assistant professor at the college who directs the project, said that a total of 25 teachers will be accepted. The project is offered by about 180 other universities and colleges across the country.