

# Lehigh Valley's second Lightbridge Academy hosting grand opening

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The Lehigh Valley's second Lightbridge Academy child care center, in conjunction with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, will host a grand opening celebration 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at 3001 Linden St. in Bethlehem. (RYAN KNELLER/THE MORNING CALL)



**Ryan Kneller** **Contact Reporter** Of The Morning Call

Lightbridge Academy, a chain of more than 75 child care centers along the East Coast, has debuted its second Lehigh Valley location in Bethlehem.

The 3001 Linden St. facility, in conjunction with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, will host a grand opening celebration 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

The event will include a ribbon cutting (11 a.m.), DJ, grilling station, face painting, balloon twisting, petting zoo, classroom activities, center tours, whiteboard demonstrations, door prizes and more.

The newly-constructed facility, which held a soft opening June 25, supplements the area's first Lightbridge Academy, which opened in 2015 at the Madison Farms complex off Freemansburg Avenue in Bethlehem Township.

A third center is under construction at 249 Cetronia Road in South Whitehall Township.



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Bethlehem residents Joseph and Luana Negrao decided to open the Bethlehem facility after noticing their son's kindergarten classmates who attended an early education and child care center were able to handle the rigorous curriculum better than those who had not.

Joseph, who also operates Alexandria Manor senior living facilities, Nazareth Pike Self Storage and other local businesses, channeled his entrepreneurial spirit to help bridge the gap in education and provide parents with a "safe and educational place for their children."

Established in 1997, Lightbridge provides early education and child care to children ages 6 weeks through kindergarten, as well as backup care for children up to 10 years old and summer camp, according to its website.

The company's proprietary Seedlings early childhood education curriculum, inspired by Jean Piaget, Maria Montessori and other great minds in early

childhood education, encompasses “solid academic learning with developmentally appropriate practices designed to cultivate the whole child.”

A multi-sensory approach includes science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts, which encourage analytical thought, reasoning skills and critical thinking while sparking creativity; reading and writing readiness, with hands-on lessons that develop motor skills and prepare children to read and write; “Singing Sprouts,” which explores music through singing, movement, instruments and a variety of cultures and styles; “Spanish Sprouts,” which covers the basics of counting, colors, readings and every-day communication in Spanish; and “Signing Sprouts,” which fosters communication and language development via American Sign Language.

Lightbridge’s commitment to support busy moms and dads has inspired the company to integrate technology as a way to form a stronger connection between home and school.

In 1998, the company introduced ParentView Internet Monitoring, a technology that enables parents to stay connected throughout the day. And in 2011, it launched a parent eCommunication app that sends families pictures and videos with real time reports and milestone updates.

Parents enrolling their children at the grand opening will receive up to a \$1,000 tuition credit distributed over a 10-month period. Info: 484-241-2029; [lightbridgeacademy.com](http://lightbridgeacademy.com).