Tiffany's Tots & Toddlers Daycare combines secure, reliable, and affordable care in a 6 to 1 ratio

Are you in dire need of dependable daycare? Trying to juggle furthering your career and making sure your child's developing needs are met? Have you shopped around and seen nothing but jaw-dropping rates?

In a day and age where both parents have careers and single parents raise their kids alone, daycare has become a necessity for many households. However, the expense can often be burdensome, the safety concerns worrying, and task of finding top-quality caretakers time-consuming. Bouncing child or children from grandparent, to uncle and aunt, to best friend lends an unstable environment and endless phone calls and scheduling.



Kids will never be bored at Tiffany's Tots & Toddlers.

Can daycare be affordable, dependable and safe? Can it be run

by accredited, passionate caretakers while providing a balance between education and fun? Is there a facility whereby you can rest assured that your child is in great hands allowing you to stay focused?

Tiffany's Tots & Toddlers at 66 Grant Street, New Bedford is owned and operated by the prodigious Tiffany Pimental and is just such a place. As opposed to a group daycare center, Tiffany runs a home daycare facility — that means smaller groups (limited to 6 kids) that lead to more personal attention to your child. Her family child care center encourages learning, play, and the development of social skills, all in a safe, structured and secure, home type environment for children from newborn to five years of age.

Tiffany possesses a Teacher's Certification, is licensed by the Department of Early Education and Care, CPR and first aid certified. Not satisfied with that, she has regularly attended courses in the Early Education field and her passion drives perpetual learning so as to provide the best care possible.

I use the adjective "prodigious" because Tiffany is one of those that seems to have been born knowing who she is and what she wants: she has been in the teaching field since second grade when she became a Catechist Assistant. From 3rd Grade to 8th Grade she assisted in After School programs to watch over younger children at her Catholic School. When I was her age, I was focused on playing video games and playing "Army"!

Tiffany explains the motivation and inspiration that drove her to open her own family child care facility:



Kids will learn social skills through interaction and play.

"My freshman year at Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech I was accepted into the Early Childhood Education Program where I spent the next four years taking classes and gaining experience in the Childcare field. After graduating, I worked as a classroom teacher for two year old children at a local preschool and later decided daycare centers were no longer for me and I wanted to pursue my dream of opening a Family Child Care.

"Though I just started this preschool, I have always been involved with children. I have had moments all throughout my life that made me think 'this is why I'm doing this. Being able to see a child struggle with something, and then teaching them how to overcome it, is the best feeling. It makes you feel like you are here for a purpose, to make a difference in someone's life. Even someone as small as a child."

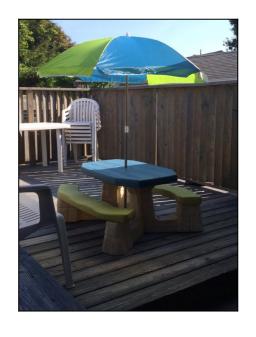
In essence, she has found a way to do what she loves and make a career out of it.

At 19 years of age, she bought the house that she was not only

raised in, but her parents were raised in as well. Your children are not being brought to a center or corporate facility, but a home. Which brings us to our next point: a home daycare translates into more affordable rates for you. Not having a corporate headquarters, massive staff and overhead means your wallet or purse doesn't get beat up. It's far cheaper than a nanny and since there are hours of operation, far more reliable than a babysitter.

Since Tiffany can care for 6 kids at a time, your child is interacting with her and the other kids, helping them develop their social skills and interacting with an authority figure and more importantly a structure that prepares them for the schools they will eventually be attending. They will never be bored with all the games, activities and interaction!

Unlike a group daycare center where the children are often separated to different rooms based on their age the children here interact. Older children learn to develop patience around the younger ones. The younger children learn new abilities and tasks from the older children.



Breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack are provided at no

additional charge. No. That's not a misprint.

For those parents concerned about your child's well-being, daycare has been shown to actually make them happier and reduce the risk of emotional problems. There's gross motor skill development, art, music, free play, oral language work and naptime. Tiffany says it best:

"I also follow a curriculum that has different themes every week. All activities are based around that theme. I work with parents to potty train children that are ready. I have security cameras that are installed for liability purposes. If parents have concerns about something that has happened with their child, it is nice to be able to rewind and see physically what happened."

Rarely mentioned, but equally as important is that you, the parent get to reap benefits. Not just financial ones, but having your concerns alleviated means you can stay focused on your career knowing that your child is growing and developing while doing so. Another burden that is completely removed for you, is that Tiffany offers breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack that all follow USDA guidelines at **no additional charge**. That cuts your grocery bill and saves you time that would be used for putting together the meals.

Whether you are caring for your child, grandchild, niece, or nephew, and you are giving daycare some serious consideration, give Tiffany's Tots & Toddlers a call. If you are looking for a passionate, educated, accredited person who provides education, fun, and the further development and growth of your child in a safe environment **and** is affordable, Tiffany's Tots & Toddlers is the place.

Tiffany's Tots & Toddlers is open from 6:30am-5:30pm, Monday through Friday and Grant Street is easily accessible from Route 140.

Tiffany's Tots and Toddlers Day Care

66 Grant Street

New Bedford

Mon-Fri: 6:30 am — 5:30 pm

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On Board Mobile Paddle Sports brings the fun of kayaking and paddleboarding to you through FREE delivery

Are you a water sports type of person? Love the smell of the salty, ocean air? Prefer splashing about or swimming in fresh water? Like to be on a boat, canoe or kayak? Heck, are you someone that just likes to have plain, old-fashioned fun?

Summer means water based recreational activities. Americans will begin to flock to the waterways — beaches, ponds, lake and rivers — for fun, exercise and spending time with friends and family.



On Board has a large inventory of equipment to fit your needs.

Two of the activities that are becoming increasingly more popular across the South Coast are kayaking and stand up paddleboarding or SUP. One of the only reasons kayaking in particular hasn't grown faster is because of the expense of just starting out in an activity you aren't 100% sure you'll make into a habit or even enjoy. No one wants to spend hundreds of dollars on something they aren't sure about!

With this in mind, rental businesses have popped up. These places allow those who are unsure about the activity itself to give it a whirl. Perhaps you are one of those who **does** like kayaking, but simply can't afford it. I've done this very thing and absolutely loved it — it was a nice change to the trails I hike and I got to see a different set of flora and fauna.

Now, here's the rub: you have to go to these rental places and either kayak or paddleboard right there on the spot, or bring a vehicle that you can strap the kayaks and boards onto. This comes with its own limitations and headaches. Are there enough boards and kayaks available? Are these tours led by experts and restricted to a schedule?

This is where Westport residents, Jenn and Bruce Mello got a

light-bulb moment: "What if we bring the equipment to people? They won't have to spend hundreds of dollars, strap everything to their car, or drive to one of only a few spots to rent the kayaks." Jenn and Bruce are both outdoor folks who are always adventuring on land and sea — whether hiking trails or hitting the ocean or beach. They have a particular love for boating, kayaking, and paddleboarding.

Since both have extensive business and customer service backgrounds, they felt this was the perfect way to put that experience towards a passion while fulfilling a need of the community. They successfully turned that very love for kayaking, exercise and fun into a business called "ON BOARD Mobile Paddle Sports" in 2016 and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

Stand Up Paddleboarding is all the rage these days, in fact "According to the Outdoor Foundation's 2013 Outdoor Participation Report, stand up paddleboarding was listed as the most popular outdoor activity among first-time participants."



Exercise you brain, your body, and your spirit by hitting the South Coast's waterways.

It's an offshoot of surfing that originated in Hawaii and is really taking off; it's easy to get started, easy to learn, and provides much better vistas than when you are seated. In addition, paddleboards fit right in at the beach and compliments all your regular beach activities.

How it works is simple: they deliver and pick up the equipment to the location of **your** choice. No need to go to one of a small handful of rental spots. No need to break out the ropes and bungees and muckle the kayaks or boards onto the roof of your car or truck bed. All that hassle disappears in a flash. You simply grab a few items and head to your favorite waterway and "ON BOARD Mobile Paddle Sports" will meet you at the chosen time — they bring the accessories and kayaks or paddleboards.

It gets even better: this is a FREE service within 20 miles of Westport. After that, it's a low fee of \$5 per 10 miles.

Now the thrill of exploration, the exercise, the fresh air, and the plain old fashioned fun have just been placed in your hands in a hassle-free way. You can call or even head to their website to set up the day and time. You can browse through the equipment make a reservation or see the rates. In addition, if you think you would like to try out kayaking or stand up paddleboarding but don't know where the good spots to go are, "On Board Mobile Paddle Sports" has you covered: you can check out the page dedicated to recommended trips.

Whether you want to take up kayaking or stand up paddleboarding as a hobby, try it out to see if you'd like it, just want a form of exercise, be outdoors or want an excuse to get together to have fun with friends, family or even solo, you'll find that Bruce and Jenn are more than happy to help make that happen for you.

Now there's nothing stopping you, your friends, or family from reaping and enjoying all the benefits of kayaking and

paddleboarding. Water under you, sun over you, good people around you.



On Board Mobile Paddle Sports

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Westport, Massachusetts 02790

Phone: (508) 965-1527

EMail: onboardpaddlesports@gmail.com

Mon: 7:00 am-7:00 pm

Fri-Sun: 7:00 am-7:00 pm

1st delivery time 7:00am last pick up at 7:00pm

Facebook: facebook.com/onboardpaddlesports

Website: onboardmps.com/

MJ's Pet Training Academy's dog grooming service — a place where your best friend will love to go!

We've waxed positively in the past about MJ's Pet Training. We first introduced Melissa Vieira in an article last March and again after she expanded her courses and classes in an article in November.

If you missed those articles, feel free to read them. In a nutshell, MJ's Pet Training Academy is the premier training facility for any dog that needs some behavioral training, exercise, or owner that wants their dog to learn some tricks and/or develop some social skills.

This doesn't mean it's a facility for "bad" dogs. Your dog may experience anxiety or nervousness around humans or other dogs. You may have a desire to compete in tournaments. You may just want him or her to learn some tricks so you can show him or her off. You may just want to enrich your dog's quality of life.



One of the

pampered clients enjoying his time at MJ's Pet Training Academy.

Whatever the reason, the highly accredited, award winning trainer utilizes a successful positive reinforcement method that produces results time and again. Since she started her business, the response has been nothing short of amazing. Rave reviews demand, and word of mouth have catapulted "MJ's" into popularity.

One aspect of MJ's that has really shined is the grooming services and she has developed a large regular and loyal following with what she calls "Positive Grooming." Since Melissa absolutely adores working with animals, her primary concern while grooming is that the pet has a positive experience since grooming can be stressful for many pets — something that is often glossed over. It certainly is not comparable to humans having a haircut.

"Grooming can be stressful if the pet is not used to the handling, and holds required to get groomed, standing up for long periods of time, the sounds of a grooming salon, and so on. " she shared with me. "I am working really hard not just at MJ's but within the grooming industry to come up with some creative solutions to make grooming a positive experience that dogs really enjoy."

How does she know she is getting it right? She has clients that have told her that when they say "Do you want to go to MJ's?" they get visibly excited. Melissa finds it very rewarding to see the dogs come in through the door knowing that they are about to be groomed, but wagging their tails!

So how does she get results like this? How does she achieve a scenario where your won't have to twist your pet's arm...er...paw, to get groomed? She **listens**.



The pink collar pins the ears down so protect the dog's hearing and lessen the stress from the noise of the vacuum. Pampered!

She never forces the dogs to stand up during the entire process. She will work with each dog on an individual basis and give them play breaks as necessary, let them run around the obstacle course, run through the tunnel or just let them run about. Maybe something she recently wrote about and was published in a top industry magazine is needed: utilizing a target -usually round-that the dog will be taught to put his nose on. A sort of distraction "trick." If your dog is more low-key, they can simply relax.

Think you have an aggressive or nervous dog that may be a problem? Don't fret — Melissa has worked with just about every behavior imaginable. "Even dogs who are very aggressive, or nervous can be trained husbandry behaviors like put a muzzle on themselves without a human having to muscle it on. We train dogs to voluntarily lie on their sides or file their own nails. The dogs think these are tricks, but these "tricks" allow us to create a stress-free experience for both the animal and us."

Eventually the personality of the dog comes through and Melissa gets to know the dog and the perfect formula to apply

to that individual dog. That is how she gets dogs comfortable to the point that get excited to go to MJ's.

In addition to the "haircut" aspect of the grooming, MJ's provides a number of special services like mud scrubs, oil treatments, facials, arthritis soaks and a gentle de-shed treatment: a high-velocity dryer removes all that loose hair in the hard to get with a brush, undercoat.

The full menu of services and prices can be found here.

Melissa's love for animals extends outside and beyond MJ's. She spends all her extra time writing for her blog and magazines and helping animal causes. She was recently nominated for the Southcoast Emerging Leaders Award and as a favorite pet groomer for the Southcoast Reader's Choice awards for her work.



"Mommy, can we stay just a little bit longer? Huh, huh? Please!"

A cause that is dear to her heart is an organization called Healing Companions, Inc. The organization is dedicated to "...assist individuals severely limited in their ability to function due to mental illness." They believe in the healing benefits of psychiatric service dogs and to save animal lives they use shelter and rescue dogs as much as possible so they aren't living their lives in a shelter or eventually

euthanized.

How she helps is that she has three "Name Your Price" bath dates set during the Summer season. Yep, YOU get to name your price. You get a dog that gets the primo wash treatment from head to paw and MJ's donates HALF of the proceeds to Healing Companions, Inc. You get a happy, clean dog while feeling good about having contributed to an organization that gets dogs out of shelters and away from euthanization **and** improving the quality of life of a person in need. That's something worthy!

In addition, MJ's will donate HALF of all mud scrub and oil treatments to Healing Companions, Inc. until September. You can find out more about Melissa and her connection to this wonderful organization here

If you are looking for grooming for your pet from a top-notch facility that specializes in pets — avoid the chains and franchises and go local! Where you are on a first-name basis with passionate, animal-loving professionals. Your dog will not only come out looking as handsome or pretty as ever, but will learn a few tricks too. Stop in and say hi to Melissa and tell her Joe sent you!

Watch Wally and Gidgette get groomed at MJ's Pet Training Academy!

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MJ's Pet Training Academy

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Joel Cordero turns his love for commercial video, photography and aerials into an opportunity for professionals seeking marketing content

If you live in the area, it is likely that you have come across the work of Joel Cordero; he has been producing media work across the South Coast area for more than 15 years as a photographer and videographer.

As a Broadcast Editor at Boston's Ch7 NBC News, you've certainly seen his work without even being aware of it. He has produced promotional videos and product photography for the likes of Toth&Co, BlueFly, University of Rhode Island, South Coast Hospital group, Mass Dept of Health, SMEC, and many more.



Preparing for a commercial aerial video shoot.

Joel has managed to transform his deep love for photography and video into a career providing content primarily for realtors, business owners entrepreneurs and other professionals in need of world class marketing content.

Joel opened up about his motivation: "My biggest inspiration has been a deep internal desire to be able to provide a comfortable lifestyle for my family while doing something I love. Those who know me will attest that visual languages have always been second nature to me. My talent and skills have evolved from drawing and painting, to design and illustration, and more over, to video and photography."

It is this intense desire that has sent him to university to balance the passion with technical knowledge and go through any extra training that would help him improve the craft, regardless if it was mandatory or not. In his mind, while it wasn't a necessity, it would deepen his understanding, improve his knowledge base and subsequently improve the quality of service he could offer.

Joel has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Design & Photography and has a FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) Sec.333 Exemption for Commercial Aerial Video & Photography. "There are other drone operators/Aerial photographers in the market but very few have the appropriate federal exemptions required from the FAA/Federal government to operate commercially. If caught, those operators and their clients could be held liable for federal fines in the tens of thousands," he explains.

Why does Joel place so much emphasis on video? You may have noticed the sheer volume of videos that circulate the internet is rapidly growing: Experts predict that by 2019, 80% of the

world's internet traffic will be video. Photography will always have a practical marketing application, but video is the future of marketing content.

