CHASING CHILDHOOD
Directed by Eden Wurmfeld and Margret Loeb

CHASING CHILDHOOD, a film co-directed by Eden Wurmfeld, explores the rapidly changing landscape of contemporary childhood and parenting. In today’s childhood confined by structure, stranger danger and helicopter parenting, free-play has virtually disappeared and experts are ringing the alarm bell about the dramatic rise in anxiety and depression in young children and teens. What if all this well-intended, meticulous overseeing everything from children’s extracurricular activities to academic performances, results in an environment that negates childhood? What if it’s all backfired?

This thoughtful film follows education professionals and reformed helicopter parents in three diverse socio-economic school districts as they seek and offer solutions for developing more confident, independent young people.

CHASING CHILDHOOD was filmed before the COVID pandemic, but the issues explored are even more profoundly relevant today: what is the changing landscape of contemporary childhood and parenting? What is best for my kid? These questions transcend zip code and demographics.

Dr. Michael Hynes who appears in the film was the Superintendent of the Patchogue-Medford Schools District at the time of the filming and is currently the Superintendent of the Port Washington School District. He, along with Co-Director Eden Wurmfeld will be discussing these pressing issues in a pre-recorded Q&A with Tom Needham, host of the Sounds of Film, WUSB Radio, 90.1 FM.

This thoughtful film follows education professionals and reformed helicopter parents who seek and offer solutions for developing more competent, independent young people while restoring some joy and freedom to childhood. The local Patchogue-Medford School District is showcased in the film, as former school Superintendent, Michael Hynes struggles to add extra recess and a longer lunch period in the schools.