

Norwalk Early Childhood Council Preschool Guide

Why Preschool?

Childhood experts agree: Attending a high-quality preschool program prepares kids for kindergarten and beyond. At preschool not only do children become exposed to numbers, letters and shapes, but even more importantly, they learn how to get along with other children and share and contribute in the classroom.

Finding the best option for your child takes time.

- Call each preschool you are considering and ask about its fees, admission policy and what they teach.
- Visit the preschools that you think will best meet your needs and spend time in a classroom to observe.

What To Consider When Choosing a Preschool for Your Child

- Is it close to home or work?
- Do you need half-day or a full day? Do you need 2-3 days a week or full time?
- Is the preschool clean and safe?
- Is there an outdoor play area?
- Are there different activity areas in the classroom?
- Are there lots of materials and books?
- Is there student work on the walls?
- What early childhood credentials do the staff have?
- Is the atmosphere friendly and fun?
- Are parents welcome to visit and observe their child?

Information adapted from Parents.com *Why Preschool Matters*

★ NAEYC Accreditation

NAEYC is the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The NAEYC accreditation process examines all aspects of a program - including health and safety, teacher qualifications, and administration - especially the quality of interactions between teachers and children and the nature of the child's experience.

★ School Readiness Programs

School Readiness is a state funded subsidy program that helps families afford a quality daycare program. Programs in Norwalk are closely monitored by the Norwalk Early Childhood Council for quality. School Readiness programs provide a quality preschool program on a sliding fee scale for 3-4 year olds whose families qualify for tuition assistance determined by family size and income.

Disclaimer: The information in this guide is included for your convenience only and should not be considered an endorsement or recommendation.

A Kid's Place

10 Elmwood Ave/06854

Contact: Francine Mercer

Phone: 203-899-0091

E-mail: akpdirector@gmail.com

Description: An environment that encourages creativity and the imagination of children. Throughout the day children are given the opportunity to learn through exploration and play.

Hours: Full-time--7:30 AM-5:30PM for 12 weeks --5 years

Apple Tree Preschool

131 Strawberry Hill Ave/06851

Contact: Gerri Flewellyn

Phone: 203-866-8933

Description: Your child's home away from home.

Hours: Full and part-time, summer program available
7:00AM-5:30PM/ 9:00-3:00PM or 9:00AM - 1:00PM.
Parents can choose from 2 - 5 days, Care4Kids

Brookside Elementary Preschool ★ ★

382 Highland Ave./06854

Contact: Eisybell Garcia

Phone: 203-899-2830, x 2006

E-mail: garciae@norwalkps.org

Description: Our accredited program fosters early learning experiences which support a child's growth and development. We provide active play and rich exploration for a smooth transition to kindergarten. *Applications are made available annually in January for upcoming school year.

Hours: Full school day: 8:45 AM - 3:45 PM, Monday- Friday.
Our program follows the Norwalk Public Schools calendar.

Busy Bodies Child Care Center

23 Half Mile Road/06851

Contact: Lisa Tavella/Nicole Memoli

Phone: 203-849-7723

Description: We provide a program that strives to make a child feel important and have a strong sense of self. Parents and staff work together to provide a message of worth to the child.

Hours: 7:00 AM-5:30 PM / 9:00 AM-3:00 PM/9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Carousel Preschool Nursery ★ ★

25 France Street/06851

Contact: Nicole Fagan

Phone: 203-847-1276

E-mail: carouselkids1234@aol.com

Description: We provide a warm and nurturing environment in which each child and adult is able to grow emotionally, socially, cognitively, creatively and physically through their interaction with each other.

Hours: Full-time, 7:30AM - 5:30PM

Website: www.carouselpreschool.com

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Children's Playhouse

112 Bouton Street/06854 and
31 West Avenue/06854



Contact: Rovitta Paul
Phone: 203-855-9440
E-mail: tchidrenply@aol.com

Description: An accredited school that caters to the whole child by providing a safe and comfortable environment that nurtures a child's natural inquisitive mind.

Hours: Full-time, 7:30AM - 5:30PM

Community Co-op Nursery School

4 Trolley Place/06853

Contact: Tracy King/Dana Gorman
Phone: 203-866-2184
E-mail: info@ccnsct.org

Description: Our philosophy is that children learn through play. We provide a secure, relaxed and creative atmosphere in which each child can develop the physical and intellectual skills appropriate to their individual needs and can mature socially among their peers.

Hours:
1-day: Two's - 9:30 AM-noon, Friday
2 days: Two's - 9:30 AM-noon, M/W or T/Th
4 days: Three's - 9:30 AM-noon, M-Th
5 days: Four's - 9:30AM-12:30PM, M/W/F and 9:30 AM-2:15 PM, T/Th

Website: www.ccnscct.com

The ELLI Lab School at Stepping Stones Museum for Children and Fox Run Elementary

303 West Avenue/06853 and 228 Fillow St./06850

Contact: Kate Delli Carpini
Phone: 203-899-0606, ext. 222
E-mail: ellimodell@steppingstonesmuseum.org

Description: The ELLI Lab School is a comprehensive, high quality language and literacy development program for children ages 3 to 5 and their families. ELLI links available resources, evidence on learning and teacher strengths to answer questions that will ensure children's future educational and life success.

Hours: 2-day (T,TH), 3-day (M,W,F) and 5-day (M - F) options available for morning (9:00 am - noon) or full day (9:00 am - 4:00 pm). Extended hours available from 7:30 am - 6:00 pm.

Website: www.steppingstonesmuseum.org/ellilabschool

>Welcome to
Preschool!

Five Mile River Nursery School

51 Fenloyer Street/06853

Contact: Lauriston Avery
Phone: 203-838-4266
E-mail: 5milerns@gmail.com



Description: We believe that all children are gifted. Our mission is to provide a warm, safe nurturing environment for every child to successfully grow, learn and discover.

Hours: Part-time, 8:30AM-5:00PM with morning and afternoon programs for 2s, 3s, 4s and 5s

PerDiem ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS 12-1:30/2:15 or 4-5:00 Mondays Movement, Tuesdays Ooey Gooy Art, Wednesdays Science and Math, or Thursdays Drama Day. Fridays 12-3 Lunch Bunch and Music.

PlayPartners 12:30-1:30: small group work on pro-social skills.

Website: www.fivemilervernurseryschool.com **Find us on Facebook.**

Growing Seeds Child Development Center

2 Trinity Place/06854

Contact: Stephanie Crowell
Phone: 203-857-0708
E-mail: growingseeds@sbcglobal.net



Description: We have designed a program that will stimulate your child's imagination and at the same time increase his/her self-esteem and social skills.

Hours: Full-time 7:30AM-5:30PM
Website: www.growingseedscdc.com

Happy Time Nursery School

260 New Canaan Ave/06850

Contact: Tamara M. Whitecotton
Phone: 203-847-9566
E-mail: brnrtrulycanadian@yahoo.com

Description: We believe that education begins in the home and that the home-school relationship is vital to the child. A SAFE and HAPPY environment to stimulate YOUR child's educational needs!

Hours: Full and part-time, 7:30-5:30PM Fulltime -
Anything under 5 hours is Part-time

Head Start

165 Flax Hill Rd./06854 (Ben Franklin School)
11 Ingalls Ave./06854 (Nathaniel Ely School)

Contact:
Phone: 203-810-5607 or 203-810-5649

Description: We have credentialed teachers and family outreach workers who provide a quality pre-school experience. The program coordinates with community providers to bring consultation around medical and dental health, nutrition, education and behavioral health. The staff assists parents with referrals to other agencies and teaches parents how to advocate for their children. Hot meals are provided.

Hours: 9 AM - 3 PM

Li'l Critters Preschool



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Li'l Critters Preschool

10 Lewis Street/06851



Contact: Gay Cavanagh

Phone: 203-847-4220

E-mail: galc531@optonline.net

Description: "Where your Family becomes our Family"

Hours: Full time - 7:30AM-5:30PM – 2, 3 & 4 yrs -
8AM-5 PM for infants and toddlers -
Part-time hours are – 8AM-1PM

Website: www.lilcritterspreschool.com Find us on Facebook

The Marvin Children's Center



60 Gregory Boulevard/06855

Contact: Maria Iacono-Maldonado

Phone: 203-854-6781

E-mail: marv@brighthorizons.com

Description: An award-winning program with an intergenerational philosophy, owned by Under One Roof, Inc., managed by Bright Horizons Family Solutions. Children and seniors interact regularly.

Hours: Full-time, 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Naramake Family Resource Center



16 King Street/ 06851

Contact: Monisha Gibson

Phone: 203-899-2900 x123

E-mail: naramakefrc@yahoo.com

PRESCHOOL--55 County Street/06851

Phone: 203-838-4481 x13149

Description: Our high quality, diverse and low staff-to-child ratio preschool fosters development through active play and exploration while providing a smooth transition to kindergarten.

Hours: 5 days 9:00 AM-12 PM, 8:30 AM-2:30 PM or 7:45 AM-6:00 PM

Nitzan Nursery School

109 East Ave/06851

Contact: Amy

Phone: 203-838-6019

E-mail: nitzan@congbethel.org

Description: Nitzan's warm and nurturing environment encourages curiosity and safely allows your child to explore his/her surroundings. We help each child grow through social interaction and by providing them with appropriate experiences and materials.

Hours: Part-time
Two's (beginning at 18 months)- 9:30AM - Noon
(2,3 or 5 day option)
Three's - 9:15AM - Noon (3, 4 or 5 day option)
Four's 9:15AM - Noon (5 days)

Optional Lunch Bunch and PM programming until 2:00 PM

8:00 Early Dropoff Option

Website: www.congbethel.org

Norwalk Community College

Child Development Laboratory

166 Richards Ave/06854



Contact: Catherine Neiswonger, Director

Phone: 203-857-7143

E-mail: cneiswonger@ncc.comnet.edu

Description: We offer high quality child care and education for children ages 6 months to 5 years of age. Program is a laboratory environment for training and education of NCC students. Non NCC employees and students may apply.

Hours: M-Th: 8:00 AM-3 PM/ F: until 12 PM (School Readiness 3 PM)
Families can enroll for 2, 3 or 5 days/week.

Website: <http://norwalk.edu/dept/socialsciences/cdls>

Norwalk Housing Authority

School Readiness and



Infant/Toddler Programs

165 Flax Hill Rd./06854 (Ben Franklin School)

11 Ingalls Ave./06854 (Nathaniel Ely School)

Contact: Patricia Marsden-Kish

Phone: 203-956-6216 x0601

Description: We have credentialed teachers and family outreach workers who provide a quality pre-school experience. The program coordinates with community providers to bring consultation around medical and dental health, nutrition, education and behavioral health. The staff assists parents with referrals to other agencies and teaches parents how to advocate for their children. Hot meals are provided.

Hours: Full and part-time; 7:30 am to 5:30pm

½ day, six hour and extended day programs

Website: www.norwalkhousingauthority.org

Norwalk Public Schools-KIDS Inc.

125 East Ave/06852

Contact: Norwalk Public Schools

Phone: 203-854-4130

Description: Our program objectives support the development of the child through cognitive, emotional, social, language, physical and creative activities. The curriculum is designed to address the strengths, needs and interests of the child. This program follows the Norwalk Public Schools calendar.

This is an inclusionary program that includes preschool aged children with disabilities and typically developing peers.

Schools: Brookside, Cranbury, Fox Run, Kendall, Marvin, Silvermine and Wolfpit Elementary Schools.

Hours: Part-time

Three's: M-Th. (8:30 AM-11:30 AM) or (9:05 AM-12:00 PM)

Four's: M-Fri (11:30 AM-2:30 PM) or (12:15 PM-3:15 PM)

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Room To Grow

208 East Ave/06855 and
139 West Rocks Road (rear building) 06851

Contact: Nancy Cook Owens

Phone: 203-831-8200

E-mail: nowens@ccfc-ct.org

Description: We are an accredited program that provides high quality care and education for preschoolers.

Hours: Full-time, 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Website: www.ccfairfield.org

Side by Side Charter School

10 Chestnut Street/06854

Contact: Beatriz Abreu, Family Resource Center Coordinator

Phone: 203-857-0306 (Fax: 203-838-2666)

E-mail: babreu@sbscharter.org

Description: Our preschool promotes hands-on active learning. Admission is by lottery. Call for Open House dates/application.

Hours: 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM, School Year

Website: www.sbscharter.org

Sonshine Christian Children's Center

718 West Ave/06850

Contact: Debra Horton

Phone: 203-831-8349

E-mail: sonshine718@yahoo.com

Description: Infant-Toddler-Preschool, full day. Our unique center provides quality childcare. We nurture and guide children through play and discovery while preparing them for a lifetime of learning.

Hours: Full-time, 7:30AM - 5:30PM, extended day option 6:00 PM

Toni's Day Care

14 Park Hill Ave./06851

Contact: Toni Penna/Toni Murphy

Phone: 203-866-0766

Description: It's your child's home away from home.

Hours: Full-time, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, extended hours available



Tutor Time Child Care Learning Center

466 Main Ave/06851

Contact: Jennifer Clancy

Phone: 203-846-6046

E-mail: 6662@tutortime.com

Description: We have a safe and secure, warm and caring environment while preparing the children for school.

Hours: Full and part-time, 6 weeks—5 years old

6:30 AM – 6:30 PM—2, 3, 4, and 5 days

8:00 AM—12:30 PM, 8:00 AM—3:00 PM, 8:00 AM—6:00 PM

United Church Nursery School

210 Rowayton Ave/06853

Contact: Paula Keller

Phone: 203-853-3554

Description: At UCNS, we are dedicated to pre-school education. In a nurturing environment, our staff facilitates the social, physical, intellectual and emotional growth of every child in our school. We work closely with parents to ensure each child develops age appropriate skills through play and exploration.

Hours: 3's and 4's, Part-time, 9:15 AM - 11:45 AM M-F

Pre-K (5's) 9:30AM - 1:30PM M-F

2's, Tuesday and Wednesday 3:30 – 5:00 PM

Website: www.unitedchurchnurseryschool.org

West Norwalk Nursery School

275 Richards Ave/06850

Contact: Brooke Mauro

Phone: 203-853-9060

Description: Our committed staff provides a nurturing atmosphere within a safe and happy learning environment. We emphasize problem solving skills and conflict resolution as we develop the skills necessary for a successful transition to Kindergarten.

Hours: Part-time

9:00 AM - Noon or 12:15 - 3:15PM

Website: www.uuc.org

For More Information Contact:

Call 2-1-1 or visit the 211 website: www.211childcare.org or
203-854-4147 or 203-854-4148 (English) or 203-854-4091 (Español)

