

Choosing an Early Care and Education Program

LOOK FOR PROGRAMS:

- That welcome parents to drop by the home or center at anytime
- Where the activities and materials excite the children and offer just the right amount of challenge
- With teachers trained in child development or early education specific to your child's age
- Where warm and friendly adults are actively involved, talking and playing with children, rather than just watching them and telling them what to do
- With indoor and outdoor spaces that are clean, safe and well organized, with age appropriate equipment and a wide variety of well-maintained toys and educational materials
- That have staff who can explain the skills children are learning while they are playing

For more information on choosing an ECE program go online to families.naeyc.org

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Additional Resources for Hamden Families with Young Children

- **HAMDEN FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS:** www.hamden.org/frc
Resources, play groups, home visiting, family support and special events
 - Church Street Elementary School: 203-407-3111
 - Ridge Hill Elementary School: 203-407-2035 x854

- **Free home-based childcare for infants/toddlers at or below the poverty level.** ALL OUR KIN: 203-772-2294 x20

- **Programs offering low to moderate cost childcare/preschool for three and four year olds due to state and local funding:**
 - Hamden Public Schools Early Learning Program
 - Sleeping Giant Daycare
 - Tender Care Learning Center

See inside for contact information. Income requirements/parent fees vary by program. Register now for openings at these sites starting July 1, 2017 and September 1, 2017. Availability is limited.

■ SUPPORT FOR YOUNG CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

Infants and Toddlers: CT Birth to Three System
Child Development INFOLINE, 1-800-505-7000
cdi.211ct.org; www.birth23.org
Eligible children are offered home based services.

Preschoolers (3 and 4 year olds): Hamden Public Schools Preschool Special Education, Judith Antignani 203-407-2010

■ CT CARE 4 KIDS: www.ctcare4kids.com, 1-877-868-0871

Care 4 Kids helps families with low to moderate incomes, pay for child care. At the time of this printing the program has limited availability, call for more information.

Register NOW
for Kindergarten in
Hamden Public Schools!

If your child is turning 5 on or before January 1, 2018, and is going to Kindergarten in August 2017, register NOW.

HAMDEN KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION PACKETS AVAILABLE AT:

- Hamden elementary schools
- Hamden Public Library branches
- Your child's preschool/childcare provider
- www.hamden.org

Need to know your child's school? Call 203-407-2000

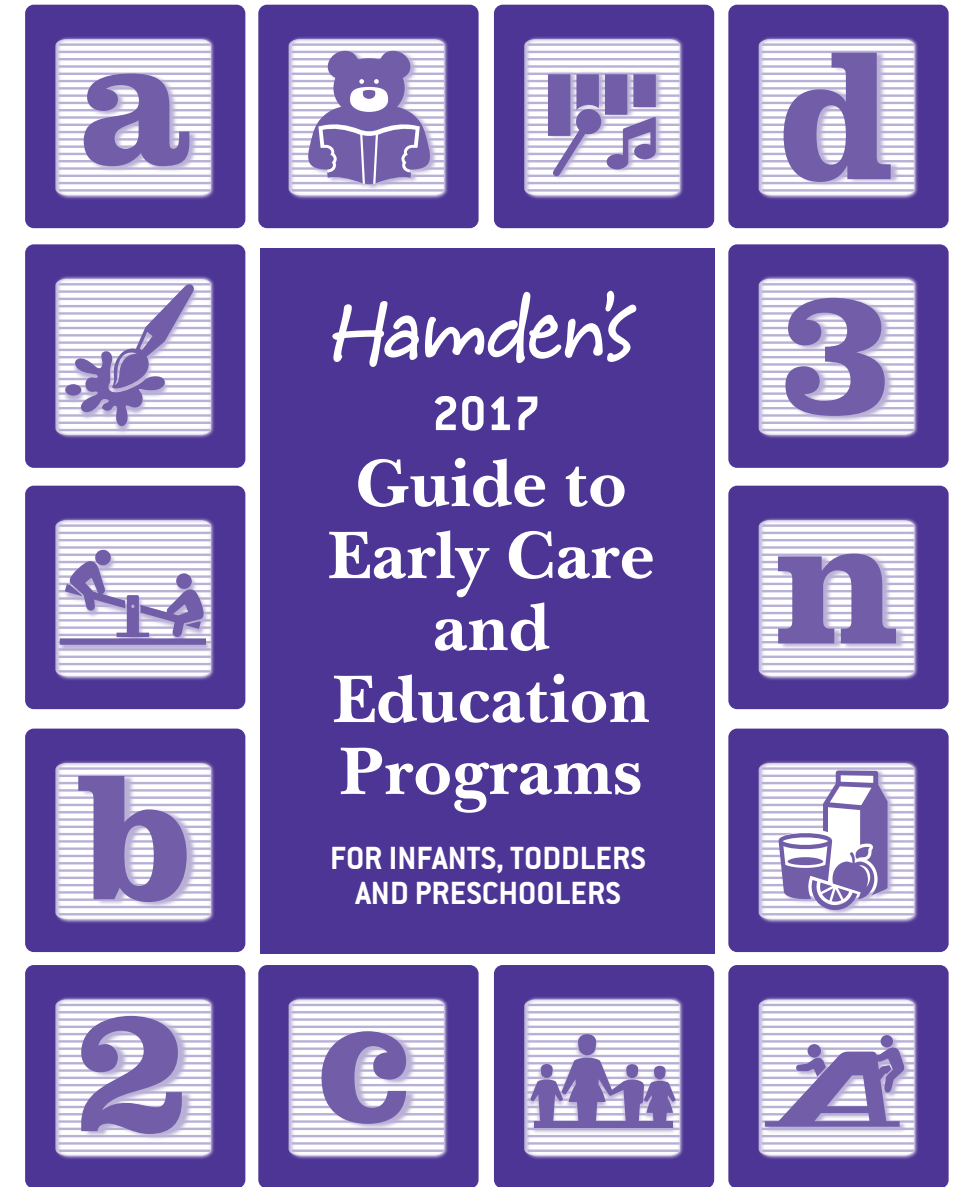
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATIONS AT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

Thursday March 16 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Friday March 17 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Monday March 20 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Tuesday March 21 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

KINDERGARTEN FAIR/REGISTRATION AT HAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Wednesday April 5 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

BRING YOUR REGISTRATION PACKET COMPLETED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO A REGISTRATION SESSION.



Developed by Hamden's Partnership for Young Children, this guide provides information to families regarding child care and educational programs for children 6 weeks to age five.

REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS PROGRAMS FILL QUICKLY.

Look on the back for KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION information.

www.hamdenyoungchildren.org • hamdenkids@gmail.com • 203-407-7733

LIKE US ON



EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

So Many Choices

There are many things to consider when choosing an early care and education program for their child. Programs are public or private, for-profit or non-profit, and differ regarding hours, fees, program options and staffing.

No matter what program your child attends, quality early care and education helps develop children's ability to learn, in addition to providing a safe, fun and nurturing environment.

FOR HELP CHOOSING THE BEST PROGRAM FOR YOUR CHILD:

Dial 2-1-1 or call 1-800-505-1000 or go to: www.211childcare.org

Hamden Center Based Early Childhood Programs

Information on family child care can be found at www.211childcare.org, 1-800-505-1000. The child care program information in this brochure is not a recommendation or endorsement of any program.

- ▲ 6 weeks – 5 years
- 3 – 5 years
- \$ Sliding scale
- ❖ Care4Kids
- ★ NAEYC accredited
- ✓ School year only (all others have full year programs)

Alphabet Academy ▲❖

605 Benham Street
Hamden, CT 06514
Amy Small: (203) 230-9991 x1
amy@thealphabetacademy.com
www.thealphabetacademy.com
2389 Dixwell Avenue
Hamden, CT 06514
Mireille Esponda: (203) 361-3340 x2
mireille@thealphabetacademy.com
www.thealphabetacademy.com

Carrot Patch Early Learning Center ▲❖

235 Johnson Road
Hamden, CT 06518
Suzanne Miller, Nicole Miller Stevens:
(203) 248-5433
carrotpatchkids@gmail.com
www.carrotpatchkids.com

Cuddle Time Daycare Center ▲❖

700 Hartford Turnpike
Hamden, CT 06517
Maria Anthony: (203) 230-8449
cuddledaycare@gmail.com
www.cuddletime-daycare.com

Duck Pond Day Care ▲❖

84 Washington Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518
Karen Carrano: (203) 281-3825
hamden@duckponddaycare.com
www.duckponddaycare.com

Hamden Hall Early Learning Program ●\$

1108 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, CT 06517
Catelin Fee: (203) 752-2600
cfee@hamdenhall.org
www.hamdenhall.org

Hamden Public Schools Early Learning Program ●\$❖★

Tracy Myers: (203) 407-2254
tmyers@hamden.org

Alice Peck School
35 Hillfield Road
Hamden, CT 06518

Church Street
95 Church Street
Hamden, CT 06514

Dunbar Hill
315 Lane Street
Hamden, CT 06514

Helen Street School
285 Helen Street
Hamden, CT 06514

Hamden Public Schools Hamden High Nursery School ●✓

2040 Dixwell Avenue
Hamden, CT 06514
Michelle Kachmarck:
(203) 407-2040 x1123
mkachmarck@hamden.org

Hamden Public Schools Integrated Pre-K Special Ed ●\$✓

35 Hillfield Road
Hamden, CT 06518
Judith Antignani: (203) 407-2010
jantignani@hamden.org
www.hamden.org

Harmony Kids ▲❖

1315 Dixwell Avenue
Hamden, CT 06514
Denise Dionizio: (203) 230-9191
dizdenise@hotmail.com
www.harmony-kids.com

Harris and Tucker School, Small World Inc. ❖ (infants & toddlers)

403 Newhall Street
Hamden, CT 06517
Karen Tucker: (203) 787-9489
harrisandtuckersmallworld@gmail.com
harrisandtuckerschool.org

Harris and Tucker School ▲❖★

412 Newhall Street
Hamden, CT 06517
Kim Harris: (203) 787-5087
harrisandtucker@aol.com
harrisandtuckerschool.org

Kinder Care Learning Center ▲❖★

3025 Dixwell Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518
Samantha Stobierski: (203) 248-8262
301764@klcorp.com
www.KinderCare.com

K'tanim Nursery School at Temple Beth Sholom ❖★✓ (ages 2 to 5)

1809 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, CT 06517
Sheryl Sadinsky: (203) 288-7748
sher930@snet.net
www.tbshamden.com

Mishkan Israel Nursery School & Day Care ▲❖

785 Ridge Road
Hamden, CT 06517
Susan Nason: (203) 288-2375
sperry@cmihamden.org
www.cmihamden.org

Oakwood Child Care Center ▲❖

495 Benham Street
Hamden, CT 06514
Stephany Callahan: (203) 230-8331
oakwoodchildcarecenter@gmail.com

Over the Rainbow ▲❖

310 Broadway
Hamden, CT 06518
Jaime Moran: (203) 287-0345
info@overtherainbowkids.com
www.overtherainbowkids.com

St. Rita School Early Learning Center ▲❖

30 Gillies Road
Hamden, CT 06517
Colleen Dacey: (203) 288-6828
stritaalc@gmail.com
stritahamden.com

St. Rita School Pre-Kindergarten ●❖✓

1601 Whitney Ave
Hamden, CT 06517
Bess McGrath: 203-248-3114
bmcgrath.stritaschool@gmail.com
stritaschool.org

St. Stephen Pre-Kindergarten ✓

(4 year olds)
418 Ridge Road
Hamden, CT 06517
Maria Testa: (203) 288-6792
office@saintstephenschool.com
www.saintstephenschool.com

Shining Stars Child Care, LLC ▲❖

40 Pearl Avenue
Hamden, CT 06514
Erica Cole, Heather Walker:
(203) 691-5639
shiningstars_child_care@yahoo.com
www.shiningstars-childcare.org

Sleeping Giant Day Care, Inc. ●\$❖★

11 Pine Street
Hamden, CT 06514
Edie Reichard: (203) 776-5026
sgdaycare@sbcglobal.net

Spring Glen Church Nursery School ●✓

1825 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, CT 06517
Nancy Mahoney: (203) 288-6154
nancy.mahoney@snet.net
springglenchurch.org

Sunshine Preschool ▲\$❖

20 Augur Street
Hamden, CT 06517
Leslie Reyes: (203) 562-5840
sunshinepreschl@aol.com
sunshinepreschool-hamden.com

Tender Care Learning Center ▲❖★

40 London Drive
Hamden, CT 06517
Lori Osber: (203) 281-6602
hmd@earlyeducationpros.org
www.earlyeducationpros.org

The Smart Start Preschool & Learning Center ▲❖

4133 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518
Natasha Mendes: (203) 660-7158
thesmartstartpreschool@gmail.com
www.thesmartstart.org

Whitneyville Innovative Learning Center ●❖✓

60 Connolly Parkway #18
Hamden, CT 06514
Susan Currello: 203-530-8997
Whitneyvilleinnovative@aol.com
www.whitneyvilleinnovative.org

Young Hearts Day Care Center ▲❖

143 Leeder Hill Drive
Hamden, CT 06517
Audrey Blue: (203) 230-0587
ablue@sbcglobal.net
yhdaycare.com

Early Care and Education (ECE) Overview

CENTER BASED PROGRAMS

- Also called child care, daycare, preschool, nursery school or group child care.
- These programs provide ECE to 7 or more children in a classroom setting.
- Children under age three are in groups of 8 or less with at least one adult for every 4 children.
- Children over three are in groups of 20 or less with at least one adult for every 10 children.

LICENSED HOME BASED PROGRAMS

- ECE provided in the licensed provider's home, sometimes called family child care.
- Providers care for up to 6 full-time children and 3 school-aged children. Providers care for only two children under age two, unless the provider has an assistant.
- Some providers offer very flexible hours.

CARE PROVIDED BY A RELATIVE, BABYSITTER OR NANNY

- This type of care is currently not monitored by state or local officials.

LICENSING

- Center and home based programs are required to be licensed; public and parochial schools programs are exempt from licensing.
- For Child Care Licensing information call the CT Office of Early Childhood 1-800-282-6063.

ACCREDITATION

- Several national organizations offer accreditation to child care providers.
- Accreditation guidelines are generally stricter than those for licensing.
- Accreditation is voluntary and not required by state law.