

The Town of Coventry Early Childhood Resource Guide



Mission of STEPS:

The STEPS (Sharing Together Enriches Potential Success) Collaborative will strive to increase the community's awareness about the importance of quality preschool education, to strengthen the early learning experiences for all Coventry children, and to offer resources and support to families as the first teachers of their children. By bringing together families, schools, and community leaders, we are making progress in ensuring that all children have access to a quality preschool experience, that all families have the information necessary to make the appropriate decisions for their child in regard to early care and education, and that all children in Coventry have enhanced early learning experiences.

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Choosing Quality Child Care for your children

There are many different types of care available to fit each family's individual needs. Home day care centers are operated within an individual's home and providers usually care for children of all ages. To find a home day care provider visit 211infoline.org or call 211. A Day care Center is usually licensed for many children and operates in a building specifically designed for childcare. Day care centers may or may not have infant/toddler care, preschool programs and school aged care. Finally, a preschool is a program that serves only 3 and 4 year olds, as well as 5 year olds who not yet eligible to attend Kindergarten. Some programs are part day, while others are full day. Some only run with the school year, while others run all year long. All of these options are designed to fit the different needs of families.

SOME POINTS TO CONSIDER WHEN LOOKING FOR CHILDCARE

1. All child care facilities need to be licensed by the Dept. of Public Health. Licensing sets health, safety and caregiver training standards for all child care centers. All child care facilities are inspected at least once per year. Ask to see your child's prospective center license and make sure that it is current! If you have questions on licensing, you can contact the Dept. of Public Health at: 1-800-282-6063
2. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is dedicated to improving the well being of all young children, with particular focus on the quality of educational and developmental services. NAEYC accredited programs complete a rigorous self-study and external review process to prove that they meet national standards of excellence in early childhood education. NAEYC accreditation is something that parents should ask about when they are meeting with a prospective childcare center or preschool program! For more information about NAEYC, please contact their website at: www.naeyc.org
3. **ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS OF YOUR PROSPECTIVE PROVIDER!!!!**

Questions can include:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Are you licensed/accredited? | What hours are you open? |
| How much do you charge? | Payment policy on sick days/vacation days? |
| Current in First Aid/CPR? | How many years' experience do you have? |
| What is your typical day like? | How do you help my child learn new skills? |
| How do you handle discipline? | Do you assist with toilet training? |
| Do you provide meals or snacks? | Do you have parents that will serve as references? |

Who else besides you would be caring for my child?

What is your policy when you are ill or when my child is ill?

What type of care is available in Coventry?

Name of Program	Type of Program	Open Since	NAEYC Accredited?
Coventry Early Childhood Center (CECC) 742-5859 www.coventryecc.org	Non Profit 1/2 day preschool program: 3,4 or 5 days a week	1965	YES
Coventry Kids Center 742-7890 www.coventrykids.com	For profit Infant/Toddler care Full day Preschool Before & After School	2002	NO
Prince of Peace at the Lutheran Church 742-7548 princeofpeaceclcms.org/	1/2 day Christian preschool program	1970	NO
Family & Consumer Sciences Pre-K Program @ Coventry High School 742-7346 Ask for Sue Clark	Preschool program taught by high school students interested in pursuing careers in early childhood education.	1988	NO

HOME DAY CARE OPTIONS

The Town of Coventry currently has 35 home day cares! To learn more about the home day care providers, contact 211 childcare info line, a service of the United Way. You can call 211 from your home telephone, or visit their website at

<http://211childcare.org/>. It's so simple! Just enter the town you are looking to find care in, the type of care you are seeking and the age of your child and a listing of possible providers will be created for you! Parents can also get information about the complaint history of a daycare, information about summer camps, research average child care costs throughout the state, and find resources for grandparents raising grandchildren.



CONTACT 211 CHILDCARE INFOLINE!

<http://211childcare.org/> or 211 from any telephone

Affording Quality Childcare

School Readiness—Coventry became a recipient of the School Readiness grant, from the State Dept. of Education in 2005. This grant allows Coventry children, from families below the State Median Income to attend preschool at a reduced cost (In 2009, families of 4 may earn up to \$73,000 to qualify for some assistance). The Grant allows families to pay based on a sliding fee scale. If you think your family may qualify for this assistance, please contact CECC at 742-5859 for more information.

Care 4 Kids—Care 4 Kids is a state assistance program which assists working parents, earning below average income, with the cost of childcare. In 2008, a family of four had to be earning less than \$46,000 to qualify for some assistance. For more information, visit their web site at www.ctcare4kids.com or call 1-888-214-KIDS.

Check out this Website: www.parentsasteachers.org

This site is filled with useful information about being your child's first and most important teacher in life!

Town Preschool Screen

The preschool screen determines if preschool aged children are on target for hearing, vision, motor skills, speech, language and cognitive development. Parents with children entering Kindergarten the following year are urged to bring their child to the screen, which usually occurs in October. The appointment takes only 45 minutes and can identify any developmental issues that should be addressed as soon as possible! Please contact CECC at 742-5859 to speak with the Early Childhood Special Education Coordinator for more information.

Did you know...

Looking to donate or purchase used children's items? Here are two really great places right in town that help all Coventry residents!

Noah's Closet- located in the 2nd Congregational Church 742-1616

Thrift and Gift Shop- located on Stonehouse Rd. below the Post Office 742-8127



Coventry Public School Information

School Contact Information:

Coventry Grammar School (grades K-2)	742-7313	3453 Main Street
GHR Intermediate School (Grades 3-5)	742-7341	227 Cross Street
CNH Middle School (Grades 6-8)	742-7334	1776 Main Street
Coventry High School (Grades 9-12)	742-7346	78 Ripley Hill Road

*Need assistance with the cost of school lunch?
Call the school food program at 742-4571.*

Building a foundation of skills with your early learner

<p style="text-align: center;">Speak and Listen:</p> <p>Use and understand many words Speak in complete sentences Say and notice that words rhyme in stories Share personal stories about their interests</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Participate and Cooperate:</p> <p>Participate in conversations Stay involved in an activity through its completion Follow routines and patterns Work & play with other children</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Use Mathematics:</p> <p>Recognize and count Begin to describe objects that have different sizes, colors, shapes and patterns Sort items by "same" and "different." Begin to use words: "near," "far," "top," "bottom," "under," "first," "second," and "last"</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Read and Write:</p> <p>Retell favorite stories from books Hold a book upright Identify alphabet letters Recognize letters in their names and in names familiar to them Recognize, copy and print their names Hold a pencil and write with it</p>

**In CT, a child needs to be 5 prior to December 31
to enter Kindergarten in the fall!**

Town of Coventry Useful Information

www.coventryct.org

Coventry Human Services— A multi-generational agency, located in the Coventry Town Hall, that exists to assist Coventry residents in meeting their basic needs. The office has a food bank for families in need, assists with family's energy needs, meets with families in crisis, and organizes a holiday program. Call 742-5324 for additional information.

Youth Services—Located in the Coventry Town Hall, YS offers many programs for Coventry youth and their families. Call 742-5324 for additional information.

Coventry Recreation—Located in the Coventry Town Hall. A program brochure is published three times per year. Many offerings for preschool age children and up! Call 742-4068 for additional information.

Did you know that you can rent beautiful town facilities
to host parties and events?
Contact Parks and Recreation for more information!!!

Coventry Police Department—911 for all emergencies! 742-7331 for non-emergencies

Mom's Club—For membership information please email for more information: momsclubofcoventrymansfield@yahoo.com. This is a great resource for stay at home moms and new moms!

Booth & Dimock Library—Located at 1134 Main Street, the Booth & Dimock Library is a wonderful place to bring your children! Call 742-7606 for hours, or visit www.coventrypl.org. Be sure to check out the children's Tumblebooks online!

The Library has two story times for young children:

Tuesdays at 10:10 am for children birth to three and their caregivers.

Tuesdays at 11:15 am for children ages 3-5 and their caregivers.

Parents As Teachers—The mission of Parents as Teachers (PAT) is to provide the information, support and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life. Included in this program is a play group held on Mondays from 10-11 when school is in session at the Coventry Grammar School. Children engage in free play and parents socialize and talk with the facilitator about child development and child rearing. The play group is facilitated by Ronnie Kim, School Social Worker. She can be reached at 742-7313 for additional information.

PLAY GROUP:

A play group for children between the ages of 2 1/2 to 3 is held on Friday mornings during the school year from 8:30-9:30 at Coventry Early Childhood Center. The play group is open to any child not yet attending a preschool program Contact CECC at 742-5859 for more information.

www.coventryps.org/ceed/STEPS-mainpage.html

Health & Nutrition Information

Local Hospitals:

Windham Hospital	112 Mansfield Ave. Willimantic, CT	456-9116
Manchester Memorial Hospital	71 Haynes Street, Manchester, CT	646-1222
Rockville General Hospital	31 Union Street, Vernon, CT	872-0501

Doctor Name	Address	Tel.	Participates w/ HUSKY
Bolton Family Medicine familyandsportsmedicine.com	921 Boston Tpke.	742-1235	YES
Coventry Family Practice healthwisema.com	1707 Boston Tpke.	742-9050	YES
ECHN Pediatrics of Coventry	1683 Boston Tpke.	742-6498	YES
Coventry Internal Medicine	1366 Main Street	742-0807	NO
Coventry Family Physicians	1776 Boston Tpke.	742-7315	NO

Dentist Name	Address	Tel.	Participates w/ HUSKY
Bruce Tandy & Paul Korus, DMD	1679 Boston Tpke.	742-7065	YES
Bynes Falls Dentistry bynesfalls.com	2991 South Street	742-6665	NO
Daniel McLennon, DDS	16 Lake Street	742-0539	NO

HUSKY Program—This state program provides health care coverage to uninsured children up to the age of 19 and their parents as well as pregnant women. You may call 1-877-CT-HUSKY or visit them online at <http://www.huskyhealth.com> to find out if you qualify.

Connecticut Birth to Three State system—Do you have concerns about your child's ability to see, talk, hear, move, eat, play? To talk to someone about your concerns, call the Child Development INFOLINE at 1-800-505-7000, or visit their website at <http://www.birth23.org/>.

WIC- Women, Infant, Children—WIC provides nutritious foods and education to eligible pregnant women, postpartum women up to six months, breastfeeding women up to one year after delivery, and infants and children up to their 5th birthday. In 2008, a family of 4 had to be earning less than \$39,000 to qualify. If you think that your family qualifies, please contact the ACCESS agency at 450-7400.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps)—A State of CT assistance program administered by the Department of Social Services. In 2008, a family of 4 had to be earning less than \$2,297 a month to qualify. Coventry is served by the Willimantic DSS office. Call 465-3500 for more information.

Fun things to do with young children in Coventry & in the surrounding area

Coventry Region Recreational Opportunities:

Lisicke Beach off Rt. 31— Resident Parking pass required, toddler playscape

Patriots Park—124 Lake Street, non-residents are charged during summer months, playscape most appropriate for children 5 and older, pavilion, large field, beach

Nathan Hale Homestead

<http://www.ctlandmarks.org/hale.php>

Bolton Ice Rink—<http://www.boltonicepalace.com/>

Farmers Market—June through October

<http://www.coventryfarmersmarket.com/>

Walking Weekends—October

<http://www.thelastgreenvalley.org/ww.html>

Ron-A-Roll—Tiny Tot Skate on Thursday mornings- parents can skate with strollers and toddler skates are available! 872-8400 or at www.ronaroll.com



Fun at the University of Connecticut:

Dairy Bar & Animal Barns—486-2634 www.canr.uconn.edu/ansci/dairybar/dbar.htm

CT State Museum of Natural History & CT Archeology Center 486-4460
www.cac.uconn.edu

Mark Edward Freitas Ice Rink—486-2712

Ballard Institute & Museum of Puppetry—486-4605 www.bimp.uconn.edu

Jorgenson Auditorium—486-4226 www.jorgensen.uconn.edu

Great parks in the surrounding area for children 4 and younger:

Coventry: Lisicke Beach— Resident Parking pass required, toddler playscape.

Colchester: Recreation Complex 215 Old Hebron Rd.

Lebanon: Baileys Garden (Handicapped accessible) at the Lebanon Elementary School (when school is not in session)

Hebron: Veterans Memorial Park Wall Street,



Places of Worship in Coventry

First Congregational Church, Main Street www.firstchurchcoventry.org 742-5689

Presbyterian Church, Boston Turnpike, www.presbyterianchurchofcoventry.org 742-7222

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Main Street www.princeofpeace-lcms.org 742-7548

Saint Mary Catholic Church, Main Street www.stmaryscoventry.org 742-0681

Second Congregational Church, Boston Turnpike www.secondchurchcoventry.com 742-1616