

2-1-1 Childcare

You may obtain more information on anything you read in this guide by calling 2-1-1 Child Care. Dial 2-1-1 or 1-800-505-1000 or visit www.211childcare.org.

You can find out about:

- The average cost of child care in your area.
- Assistance available to help you pay for child care.
- Resources for grandparents raising grandchildren.
- Bi-lingual providers
- Transportation assistance
- Medication issues
- Preparing your child for child care
- Having successful child care arrangement
- Finding a nanny or au pair
- Becoming a child care provider
- Summer camps and Before and After School Programs

The child care program information in this brochure is not a recommendation or endorsement of any program. 2-1-1 Child Care is administered by United Way of Connecticut.

Help Me Grow and The Child Development Info line at 1-800-505-7000 connects children age birth through 8 and their families to community resources and provides the Ages and Stages Questionnaires free of charge so families can keep track of their child's development.

Lower Naugatuck Valley Child Care Resource Guide



*A Guide to Finding Quality Child Care in
Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Derby, Oxford,
Seymour and Shelton*



This brochure is a product of
United Way Connecticut

Getting Started

Choosing a child care program for your child is a very personal decision. Programs can be different in many ways. There is no “right” or “best” type of care.

Inside this guide, you will find information to help you judge the quality of the programs you visit and choose the type of program that best fits the needs of your child.

If you have questions about anything in this guide, please call 2-1-1 Child Care, a free and confidential service for parents and child care providers. Multi-cultural, bilingual referral specialists are available to help you – just dial 2-1-1 or 1-800-505-1000. For more preschool resources in Lower Naugatuck Valley, also visit www.MyFirst8.org.

Types of Child Care Settings

Licensed Family Child Care

- Care provided by someone in their home.
- Approved by the Office of Early Childhood
- Up to 6 children full time, only 2 may be under the age of 2
- May care for 3 school age children before and after school

Center Based Care

- Care provided for more than 7 children in a house or center
- Approved by the Office of Early Childhood
- Children are placed in groups or rooms based on their age
- Groups of no more than 8 children under the age of 3 with at least one adult caring for every 4 children
- No more than 20 children over the age of 3 with at least 1 adult caring for every 10 children

Care provided by a relative or by a babysitter or nanny in their home or yours

- Not monitored by the Office of Early Childhood

Shelton, continued

Shelton Public Schools Preschool
203 924-1023, Ext. 350
3 – 5 years

Small World
71 Longfellow Road
203 929-5498
6 weeks – 12 years

St. Lawrence
503 Shelton Avenue
203 929-4422
3 – 5 years

Tutor Time
708 Bridgeport Avenue
203 926-1126
6 weeks – 12 years

Wonder Years Learning Center
60 Todd Road
203 929-0708
6 weeks – 12 years

Boys & Girls Club
One Positive Place
203 924-7462
3 – 18 years

TEAM Shelton School Readiness
54 Grove Street & 183 Howe Ave.
203 734-8609
3 – 5 years

St. Joseph
420 Coram Avenue
203 924-4669
3 – 5 years

Susanna Wesley Nursery School
338 Walnut Tree Hill Road
203 925-1076
2 – 5 years

Kids Zone
188 Rocky Rest Road
203 924-9292
3 – 14 years

Valley YMCA School Age Child Care
418 River Road
203 736-1435
5 – 12 years

What to Ask

Below are some questions you may want to ask a child care provider to help you select a program that fits your needs:

- What hours are you open?
- How many children are you taking care of now?
- How old are the children in your care?
- How long have you been in child care?
- What is your experience/education?
- What is a typical day like?
- How would you help my child learn new things?
- How do you handle discipline?
- What meals/snacks do you provide?
- Do you provide transportation?
- Do you go on field trips?
- Are you certified to give medication?
- What is your policy when a child is ill?
- What is your policy when you are ill?
- How much do you charge?
- What if I am late picking up my child?
- What is your payment policy during holidays or vacations?

What to Look For – A Site Checklist

Your observations and feelings about a program are as important as the location and price. Here is a checklist of things to look for:

Staff/Child interactions

- adults are warm and friendly with children
- adults speak to children frequently and at their level
- adults handle discipline calmly by helping children resolve conflicts
- adults interact with children through talking and play, rather than just watching them and telling them what to do
- adults encourage children to make choices throughout the day
- adults encourage independence

Seymour

Explorers Learning Center
30-C Progress Avenue
203 881-5437
6 weeks – 12 years

Kiddie Kastle
225 Great Hill Road
203 888-4740
2 – 5 years

Village Strawberry Patch
Nursery School/Daycare
100 Bank Street
203 881-2055
3 – 12 years

TEAM Seymour Head Start
211 Mountain Road
203 888-0349
3 – 5 years

TEAM
51 Skokorat Street
203 734-8609, ext. 32
3 – 5 years

SONCCA
211 Mountain Road
203 888-7855
After School care

Kokopelli School of Music & Arts
44 Smith Street
203 881-2400
After school care

Kokopelli Preschool & Pre-K
44 Smith Street
203 881-2400
3 – 6 years

Teddy Bear Treehouse
Learning Center
200 South Main Street
203 888-2900
6 weeks – 7 years

Boys & Girls Club
20 Pine Street
203 828-6661
After School care

SONCCA
51 Skokorat Street
203 888-5783
After School care

SONCCA
35 Bungay Road
203 881-2828
After School care

Shelton

A Child's Garden, Inc.
20 Ivy Brook Road
203 402-0334
6 weeks – 12 years

Apple Tree Day Care
& Preschool Center
117 Long Hill Cross Road
203 929-8181
6 weeks – 12 years

Bright Horizons Children's Center
3 Corporate Drive
203 926-1398
6 weeks – 12 years

Building Blocks Early Learning
1079 Bridgeport Avenue
203 538-5463
6 weeks – 5 years

Happy Day Preschool
41 Church Street
203 925-0545
6 weeks – 6 years

Honey Bee Academy
250 River Road
203 538-5528
6 weeks – 5 years

Bunny Village
215 Bridgeport Avenue
203 924-2737
6 weeks – 12 years

Hide Out
49 Mohegan Road
203 929-0744
3 – 14 years

Huntington Center Nursery School
19 Church Street
203 929-7197
3 – 5 years

Kids Club
194-D Leavenworth Road
203 926-9557
3 – 12 years

Kids First Learning Center
222 Leavenworth Road
203 926-9326
6 weeks – 12 years

Kids First Learning Center
216 Long Hill Cross Road
203 926-9998
6 weeks – 10 years

Kindercare Learning Center
1 Trap Falls Road
203 944-0104
6 weeks – 12 years

Pumpkin Preschool of Shelton
100 Beard Saw Mill Road
203 926-1800
6 weeks – 8 years

Accreditation and Licensing

As a parent searching for quality child care, you may hear providers say "I am licensed" or "We are accredited".

What do these terms mean?

BEING LICENSED AND BEING ACCREDITED ARE DIFFERENT

Licensing

- Regulations set by the Office of Early Childhood (OEC)
- Program must meet minimum standards
- OEC visits and inspects programs, conducts background checks on providers, and investigates complaints

Parents are encouraged to call the OEC Day Care Licensing Unit for information on confirmed complaints against providers. They can be reached at 1-800-282-6063

Accreditation

- Standards created by national child care experts
- Standards are often higher than what states require
- Voluntary – not required by state law

Groups who accredit child care providers look at:

- Interaction among staff and children
- Lesson planning
- Staff and parent relations
- Staff training
- Physical environment
- Health and safety
- Administration
- Nutrition and food safety



CHILD CARE PROGRAMS IN THE LOWER NAUGATUCK VALLEY

Ansonia

Ansonia Public School Pre-K
115 Howard Avenue
203 736-5052
3 – 5 years

Assumption
51 North Cliff Street
203 734-0855
3 - 5 years

Creative Minds Academy
375 B Main Street
203 308-2086
6 weeks – 12 years

Julia Day Nursery
76 Central Street
203 736-2554
3 – 8 years

Smart Start Classroom
Mead School
75 Ford Street
203 736-5095
3 – 5 years

TEAM Early Education
80 Howard Avenue
203 734-8609
6 weeks – 5 years

Redwing Pond House
21 Milan Street
203 734-7974
3 – 5 years

Boys & Girls Club
28 Howard Avenue
203 735-1200
After school care

Valley YMCA Child Care Center
32 Howard Avenue
203 732-7778
6 weeks – 8 years

TEAM Early Education
4 Fourth Street
203 751-0781
3 – 5 years

Ansonia, continued

Valley YMCA School Age Care
75 Ford Street & 59 Finney Street
203 736-1435
After School care

Derby

Derby Day Care Center
219 Division Street
203 732-1010
6 weeks – 8 years

Learning Studio
1 Thompson Place
203 735-6605
6 weeks – 10 years

Noah's Ark Early Learning
27 Ninth Street
203 735-6624
6 weeks – 12 years

St. Mary-St. Michael School
14 Seymour Avenue
203 735-6471
4 – 5 years

Little Raiders University
8 Nutmeg Avenue
203 446-4224
3 – 5 years

Valley YMCA School Age Care
155 David Humphrey's Road
203 736-1435
After School care

Beacon Falls

United Day School
69 Wolfe Avenue
203 729-9006
3 – 5 years

United Day School
Before & After School
30 Highland Avenue
203 729-9006
5 – 12 years

Region 16 Preschool Program
Laurel Ledge School
30 Highland Avenue
203 729-5355
3 – 5 years

Oxford

Christ Church Preschool
470 Quaker Farms Road
203 888-7427
3 – 5 years

Kindercare Learning Center
35 Old State Road
203 888-0479
6 weeks – 10 years

Oxford Public Schools
Preschool Program
30 Great Oak Road
203 888-5842
3 – 5 years

Small World Nursery School
25 Great Hill Road
203 881-1228
3 – 8 years

SONCCA
Quaker Farms
203 888-5554
After School care

Environment

- there is plenty of indoor and outdoor space
- indoor and outdoor space is clean and safe for children
- adequate lighting and child-sized furniture
- age appropriate toys are easily accessible and stored properly
- children's projects are displayed at children's eye level
- comfortable noise level
- diapering/toileting areas are clean
- toys and play areas are cleaned and sanitized daily
- daily schedules are posted
- daily schedules meet the needs of all children
- hands-on activities are available daily

Educational Materials

- different types of toys, books, and activities are available
- toys, books and activities are right for your child's age
- toys, books and activities are from many cultures and ethnicities
- materials are in good shape – not torn or broken
- books are available and used daily

Program Policies

- policies exist regarding fees, vacation time, sick children
- program provides references from parents
- program follows a planned program for learning
- caregivers are consistent, not all new

Parents' Needs

- you will receive written or verbal reports about your child's day
- there are ways for you to be involved in your child's program
- parents are encouraged to visit the program at all times

After Your Visit

If you visit a program and like what you see, check the references of parents who use or have used the program. Some questions to ask:

- What do you/did you like best about the provider?
- What do you/don't you like?
- Did the provider make you and your child feel comfortable?
- Did the provider talk to you about your child's development?
- Was the provider dependable and reliable?