
Dear Parents and Guardians:

As we waited for our children to arrive, our greatest hope was that they come into this world as healthy human beings. We helped insure that hope with regular visits to our doctor and taking good care of ourselves.

With each day, new hopes and dreams were realized with their first words, their first crawling across the floor and then their first steps. We continued to ensure their health with trips to the doctor for immunizations, check ups and to provide the medical attention they needed when ill.

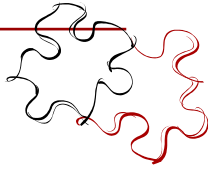
As our children become preschoolers, we must decide who will care for them when we work, what programs will support what we believe is best for our children and how do we continue to help “grow” a healthy, happy, child into a happy, successful adult who can reach their own dreams.

This guide was developed to assist you in understanding the importance of a quality preschool program in your child’s life. It will also provide you with information on the programs available in the Derby area as well as the questions to ask and what to look for when you visit.

The Discovery Project, funded through the William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund is dedicated to assisting Derby families with their preschool and child care decisions and share in your hope that your child will receive a quality preschool experience that will serve them well when they begin their Public School experience.

We wish you well as you strive to realize the hopes and dreams you have for your child and provide this guide and directory to assist you.

Derby School Readiness Council



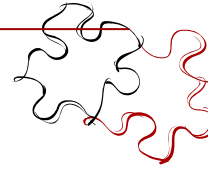
What We Know

Opening the kindergarten door is a milestone for virtually every child. It signals growth, a larger community, and exploration. The majority of children enter school ready to learn. They are healthy, curious, and eager. They share with one another, have respect for adults and reveal age-appropriate pre-literacy and math skills.

Other kindergartners open the door with much less in their repertoire. What some children learn in the years preceding kindergarten, others are just acquiring. They have fewer words and many have been less exposed to books. Some have not yet developed the basic social skills for formal schooling. Others are in poor health. The potential is equal, but the footing is not.

***Children with two years of preschool were :**

1. one and a half times as likely to be seen as ready for kindergarten in social/emotional skills than those without
 2. twice as likely to be seen as ready for kindergarten in language, literacy and math skills than those children without preschool
 3. significantly better in language and literacy, math, social/emotional and fine motor skills than children with one year of preschool
 4. significantly better in all areas than children with one year of preschool (when English was a second language)after two years of preschool
 5. were seen to have parents highly involved in their preschool child’s education. (87%)
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DERBY SCHOOL READINESS

"Putting The Pieces Together for Future Success"

FAMILY → SCHOOL → COMMUNITY

A Parent’s Guide Derby Preschool Information (Birth-5 years) & Resources

Derby School Readiness

Derby, CT 06418

(203) 734-8609

Presented By
The Derby Discovery Committee
Funded by the William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund

Family and School Readiness



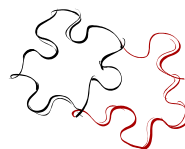
1. **Children Are Born Learning**
2. **Parents Are a Child's First Teachers**
3. **The Earliest Years Count and Children Need:**

- Basic health care and nutrition
- Constant, appropriate attention to keep them safe and guide their behavior
- Guidance and teaching geared to their stage of development

4. **School Readiness Is More Than Words and Numbers**

- Children learn to use their large and small muscles to walk, run, dress themselves and hold a crayon or pencil.
- Children learn to get along with others and how to understand and manage their feelings.
- Children learn how to say words and put them together to talk to others and tell people what they need.
- Children explore their creativity in playing make believe and working with art materials such as paints, clay, crayons and scissors.
- Children develop a love of reading and their imagination by being read to.

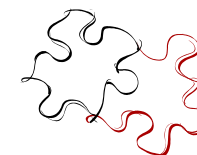
Finding The Right Program for Your Child



Questions to Ask:

- Are you licensed?
- What hours are you open?
- How many children do you care for? Full time/Part Time
- What are the ages of children?
- How much do you charge?
- How long have you been in the child care field?
- What is your experience/education? The staff?
- Are you certified to give medications?
- What is your typical day like?
- What activities would my child experience?
- How do you help my child learn new skills?
- Do you accommodate children with special needs?
- How do you handle discipline? Is it a written policy?
- Do you help with toilet training ?
- What meals/snacks do you provide?
- Do you provide transportation or go on field trips? If yes, do you provide car seats or do parents? Do you have insurance?
- What school districts do you serve?
- Do other children in your care share my child's culture?

Derby Programs



The programs listed below are the center-based licensed and licensed exempt facilities available to Derby families. For family child care providers, please call 2-1-1 Child Care Infoline.

Licensed centers are regulated by the Department of Public Health and must meet minimum standards. The Department of Health visits and inspects programs, conducts background checks on providers and investigates complaints. Centers exempt from licensing are usually operated by Churches or public schools. (*indicates programs with reduced fees)

*Derby Day Care Ctr 165 Elizabeth Street 736-9084 Ages 3-5	Derby Public Schools Pre-School Program Irving School 736-5043 Ages 3-5
*Derby School Readiness 734-8609 Ages 3-5	Learning Studio 121 Olivia Street 735-6605 Ages 6wks-10yrs
Noah's Ark 27 Ninth St. 735-6624 Ages 6 wks-12 yrs.	FEAM Inc. -Head Start -Child Day Care 734-8609 Ages 3-5
	Valley YMCA Bradley School 736-1435 Ages 5-12