

Our Purpose

The Collaborative for Colchester's Children, also known as C3, is a partnership of parents, educators, community members, agencies, and businesses working together to provide services and support to children and their families from birth through age 8.

Our Focus

Young children grow and learn quickly during their first years. Gaps in language and reading skills begin as early as 18 months of age impacting school and life success. Intervention during early childhood can mean the difference between failing or passing, regular or special education, staying out of trouble or becoming involved with crime and delinquency, dropping out or graduating, and being financially secure or struggling to make ends meet.

Our Work

What are Colchester's most important hopes for our children, families, and community? In what type of town do we want to live? By discussing these questions with the community, a plan was developed for addressing the needs of young children and their families. This plan guides our work as we strive to ensure all of Colchester's youngest citizens are healthy, happy and successful children.

Get Involved

"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."
—Margaret Wheatley

Invest in early childhood. Become a C3 volunteer, partner, or attend a C3 event. There's a place and an opportunity for everyone.



**Collaborative for
Colchester's Children**

HEALTHY, HAPPY & SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN

Contact us at:
info@colchester3.org

Visit us at:
www.colchester3.org



Improving the Lives of Colchester's Children and Families



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HEALTHY, HAPPY & SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN

The Impact of Early Intervention

- Early childhood intervention programs have been shown to yield benefits in academic achievement, behavior, educational progression and attainment, delinquency and crime, and labor market success, among other domains.
- Well-designed early childhood interventions have been found to generate a return to society ranging from \$1.80 to \$17.07 for each dollar spent on the program.

– Rand Corporation, 2005



Our Strategies

To achieve our result of healthy, happy and successful children, the plan focuses its effort in three specific areas: Health and Wellness; Family Supports; and Early Care and Education.

Within each of these areas, carefully crafted strategies have been designed to make changes in the lives of our children, our families, or both.

Some of our strategies include:

- Improve local systems and policies to promote children's healthy development;
- Increase opportunities for physical activity for children and their families;
- Create a central source of information for Colchester's families with young children;
- Expand reading, writing and numerical opportunities;
- Promote and increase opportunities for quality, enriching early learning experiences.

Each of these strategic areas is measured by select pieces of data that drive our actions and inform our decisions.

Our Partners and Supporters

In addition to our volunteer base, we have the dedication and support of our partners who work with us to improve the lives of Colchester's children and families.

Our partners and supporters represent the following groups:

- Public Health Sector
- Social Service Agencies
- Early Care Providers
- Colchester Public Schools
- Colchester Board of Education
- Colchester Board of Selectmen
- Colchester Town Departments
- Local Businesses
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Faith Based Organizations
- Local Civic Organizations
- Colchester School Readiness/Discovery Council
- William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund

