

New Canaan Preschool Programs Information Booklet



St Mark's
Episcopal Church
ST. MARK'S PRESCHOOL
NEW CANAAN, CONNECTICUT



NEW CANAAN
COUNTRY SCHOOL



Preschool



Toddlertime
Nursery School

An Education for Life



Methodist Preschool
of New Canaan

Day Care Center
of New Canaan



The Tot's Spot



First Presbyterian
Nursery School



Compiled by:
New Canaan Early Childhood Directors Group

Dear Family,

We, the New Canaan Early Childhood Directors Group, have developed this booklet to help you become familiar with some of the Early Childhood programs that are offered in New Canaan.

As you begin the process of choosing a preschool program for your child, you will see that there are many options for you to consider. Outlined in this book are program descriptions for fourteen excellent programs in our community.

We invite you to contact any or all of these fine programs to determine an appropriate fit for you and your child, as each program has something unique to offer you.

The programs that are listed in this book are:

- Day Care Center of New Canaan
- First Presbyterian Nursery School
- Maureen Bloom's Playdates
- Methodist Preschool of New Canaan
- New Canaan Community Preschool
- New Canaan Country School
- New Canaan Nature Center Preschool
- New Canaan Public Schools Preschool
- Rainbow Station – New Canaan YMCA
- Playland Nursery School
- St. Mark's Preschool
- Toddlertime Nursery School
- The Tot's Spot

Please feel free to reach out to any of the Directors with questions about their programs and registration process. We hope that you find this book helpful as you begin your journey.

Sincerely,

The New Canaan Early Childhood Directors Group

Day Care Center of New Canaan



156 South Avenue

New Canaan, CT 06840

Barbara Crolla, Director

(203) 966-9247

Daycarecenternc.org

barbara@daycarecenternc.org

The Day Care Center of New Canaan offers a full-day preschool program for children ages 3-5. The program strives to create an inclusive environment that promotes physical health, cognitive and social/emotional development, creative arts, math, science, social studies as well as language and literacy development. The center provides breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack daily.

There is an After School Program available for students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 who are enrolled in the New Canaan Public Schools.

The Day Care Center is open 50 weeks per year. It is closed for two weeks in August, annually.

Registration is rolling.





First Presbyterian Nursery School

~Where the love of learning begins~

178 Oenoke Ridge Road
New Canaan, CT 06840

Joanne Amelung LaVista, Director

(203) 966-5234

www.fpns.net

jlavista@fpns.net

First Presbyterian Nursery School offers a **play-based program that follows the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards**. The required areas of cognition, social/emotional growth, and physical development are woven into fun experimentation, exploration, and small group activities where children thrive. Our language and literacy, creative arts, mathematics, science, and social studies curriculum ensures our students are well prepared for kindergarten. Pre-K and Four's classes even use **the Wilson Foundations Pre-K Handwriting program**, consistent with the New Canaan Public Schools.

We maintain a **student teacher ratio of 6:1 or lower** to address the individual needs of our children. Our programs include:

- **Three's**: three mornings a week with flexible Lunch Bunch option. Children must be three by December 31 of the school year.
- **Four's**: four mornings a week program with one extended day and flexible Lunch Bunch option.
- Dedicated **Pre-K** for children who have completed the Four's program: five days a week with extended days and flexible Lunch Bunch option.

Located in one of the most picturesque parts of New Canaan, our well-planned facility includes **large, bright classrooms**, each housing a two-story indoor play house. Our spacious grounds (with an **enormous playground** that boasts a pirate ship), allows for students to spend a good part of each day outdoors, no matter the season!

Additional highlights include **daily music and weekly science classes**—which often means “field trips” to the New Canaan Nature Center, right next door! We also have an **active parent community**, with many social events for making lifelong friendships for children and parents!

Charm and a classic nursery school experience meet today's curriculum standards at First Presbyterian Nursery School—where children play, laugh, learn, and grow with loving, experienced teachers.



PO Box 948

Darien, CT 06820

Maureen Bloom, Director/Owner

(203) 505-0502

www.mbloomplaydates.com

maureen@mbloomplaydates.com

Maureen Bloom Playdates is the Original *at-home, drop-off* Play School Program for Fairfield County, specially designed for children 18-24 months and 24-36 months of age. Playdates innovative playgroup classes are facilitated by nurturing, experienced, creative and loving staff. Enjoyable experiences, child centered play, music, dance, yoga and art encourage independence and whole- child development. The safe and secure non-competitive home settings provides the optimal opportunity for toddlers to make discoveries, master new skills, take risks and create their first friendships. The children love taking turns hosting “school” at their homes, and parents love the warm, natural environment for transitioning a child’s first drop off experience. Partnering with families to develop social, confident and compassionate children for over two decades, Maureen Bloom Playdates continues to be a much-loved parent’s choice. We would love for your child to join us for our special **Playdates 25th Anniversary Year! Enrolling Now!**

Classes in New Canaan, Darien and Rowayton; There are 4 sessions to choose from:

- Winter/Spring Session
- Spring Warm Up Session
- Summer Camp
- 2018-2019 School Year Session

Contact Maureen to schedule a class visit, for more information and to enroll! Visit www.mbloomplaydates.com



Methodist Preschool of New Canaan

165 South Avenue
New Canaan, CT 06840

(203) 966-3176
www.mnskids.org

Carol Hammond, Preschool Director mnskids34@aol.com

Methodist Preschool offers a fully licensed and NAEYC Accredited play-based educational experience for children ages 2 to 5. We are dedicated to developmentally appropriate practice in unhurried, nurturing classrooms led by experienced ECE certified teachers. Helping children gain confidence in their social, emotional, cognitive, creative and physical skills are among our educational goals. Following the State of CT Early Learning Standards children are encouraged to become independent critical thinkers while engaging in cooperative social play. We offer as part of our curriculum music, yoga and Spanish enrichment. The focus of our program is to meet the individual educational needs of each child and foster the joy in learning.

We offer a flexible Lunch Bunch program 5 afternoons a week.

Programs that are offered:

- **2 Day 2's** - 9:15-11:45; Tuesday and Thursday
- **3 Day 2's** - 9:15-11:45; Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- **3 Day 3's** - 9:00-12:00
- **4-Day 3's** - 9:00-12:00
- **4-Day 4's** - 9:00-12:00; one extended day until 1:55pm
- **5-Day Pre-K** - 9:00-12:00; two extended days per week until 1:55
- **Lunch Bunch** is offered daily

The school year runs from September to May and follows the New Canaan Public School vacation schedule. We offer a mini camp program that runs into June.

If you are interested in touring, or have additional questions, please contact the Preschool Director at 203-966-3176 or mnskids34@aol.com. The registration period for the upcoming school year begins in October





77 Old Norwalk Road
New Canaan, CT 06840
Giselle Coven, Director

(203) 966-3010 – fax (203) 966-0062
www.nccpreschool.org
gcoven@nccpreschool.org

New Canaan Community Preschool has been providing a quality preschool experience since 1947. Our play-based curriculum focuses on the social/emotional, physical, cognitive, creative and language development for children ages 3 – 5.

At New Canaan Community Preschool, we believe that children learn through active exploration that takes place during their play. Our role is to provide children with developmentally appropriate experiences that will prepare them for Kindergarten. Our center-based classrooms provide opportunities for children to make choices, learn to socialize, function in a group setting, and become independent and confident individuals.

Programs that are offered:

- **2-Day Threes** (for children who turn three between June and November)
- **3-Day Threes** (for children who turn four in December and three between January and May)
- **4-Day Pre-K** (for children who turn four between January and November)
- **5-Day Pre-K** (for children who turn four between January and May, and five between September and December)
- **Lunch Bunch**
- **Extend My week (2-Day Threes and 4-Day Pre-K)**

The school year runs September – May. Summer programs are available.

Interested families are encouraged to visit the school. To schedule an individual tour please contact Giselle either by phone, (203) 966-3010 or email, gcoven@nccpreschool.org.





NEW CANAAN COUNTRY SCHOOL

635 Frogtown Road
New Canaan, CT 06840
Beth O'Brien,
Head of Early Childhood Division

(203) 972-0771 x292
www.countryschool.net
admissionsinfo@countryschool.net

Beginners – Grade 9

Through a combination of inquiry, play and direct instruction, the Early Childhood program at the **New Canaan Country School** nurtures a lifetime love of learning. Our program blends the foundational skills of literacy, mathematics, science and Spanish with art, movement and music. We are a school that respects childhood while celebrating and honoring the great potential of the competent and capable child.

Programs offered:

- **Beginners 3/4:** Five mornings a week from 8:15 to noon. Children must be three by August 31.
- **Beginners 4/5:** (Pre-Kindergarten): Five Days: Three half days - 8:15 to noon and two full days - 8:15 to 2:50 p.m.
- **Beginners Connections:** An optional afternoon program offered Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons from 12:00 to 2:50 p.m. The program includes lunch, quiet time, a focused exploration, playground and story time in a multi-age setting.
- **Kindergarten:** Five Days: Four full days- 8:15 to 2:50 p.m. and one half day – 8:15 - noon. Children must be 5 by August 31.
- **Extended Day:** Optional program for Beginners and Kindergarten from 2:50 to 5:30 p.m.

The school year runs September to June.

Please visit <http://countryschool.net/Page/Admissions> for details on the admission process.



National Association
of Independent Schools



144 Oenoke Ridge
New Canaan, CT 06840
Marianne Kay, Director

(203) 966-9577 x1016 – fax (203) 966-6536
www.newcanaannature.org
mkay@newcanaannature.org

The New Canaan Nature Center Preschool is a high quality preschool program for children ages 3-5. Licensed through the state of CT and accredited by the NAEYC, we are a nature based program that emphasizes the great benefits of learning through outdoor play. Our unique environment includes hardwood forests, fields, streams, ponds, wetlands and even an orchard. Children are given daily opportunities for exploration, discovery, creativity and community building which will help cultivate lifelong cognitive, physical and social/emotional skills.

Programs that are offered:

- **Mommy, Me & Nature** – Classes for 18 – 36 month olds with a parent or caregiver
- **2 Year Olds** – Two day or three day
- **3 Year Olds** – Three day or four day morning classes
- **4 Year Olds** – Four day or five day morning classes with the option of two extended days
- **5 Year Olds** – Five day Pre-K class with three extended days
- **Lunch Bunch** – Offered on Mondays and Wednesdays

The school year runs September to May.

Please contact the Preschool Director, Marianne Kay by calling (203) 966-9577 x 1016 to set up a tour of our school and grounds.





New Canaan Public Schools Preschool
West Elementary School

769 Ponus Ridge Road (203) 594-4598 – fax (203) 594-4412
New Canaan, CT 06840 www.newcanaan.k12.ct.us
Lenore Dweck Lenore.dweck@ncps-k12.org
Preschool Administrator

The New Canaan Public Schools Preschool offers a caring and exciting educational preschool experience to children ages 3 to 5. We believe that children learn through play, though carefully designed classroom activities/ curriculum and in an environment where they feel cared for, safe, challenged and happy. The NCPS preschool is located at West Elementary School and integrates regular and special education preschoolers. Classes are led by devoted teachers certified in early childhood and in special education, with the support of several teaching assistants in each class. The preschool counts on district-wide resources, including the latest educational technology and curriculum, the school library, the school gym, and experts in the areas of language, social and motor development. Tuition is moderate.

Programs offered:

- Three year olds: four days a week
- Four year olds: five days a week, with one long day

NCPS follows the NCPS school calendar.

Application information can be found online or by contacting Lenore Dweck.



Rainbow Station New Canaan YMCA

564 South Avenue
New Canaan, CT 06840
Emma Scalero, Director

(203) 920-1613 – fax (203) 972-7738
www.newcanaanymca.org/rainbow-station/
escalero@newcanaanymca.org

Rainbow Station is a full-day child care program for children 6 weeks through five years of age. The program is located in our Hargrove Child Development Center and operates on a year-round basis. Hours are Monday-Friday, from 7:30am-6:00pm. We maintain a staff ratio of at least 1:3 for infants, 1:4 for toddlers and 1:8 for preschoolers.

Rainbow Station provides a safe, nurturing environment, rich with age-appropriate experiences where children can explore their surroundings and develop at their own pace. Children have the opportunity to develop social, emotional, cognitive, physical, and creative skills. Additionally, nutrition-based lessons and activities are included in weekly curriculum.

We offer children spacious indoor and outdoor spaces to explore and learn through play-based curriculum. Additionally, as a benefit of being offered through our Y, Rainbow Station preschoolers are also given the opportunity to experience activities beyond the scope of a traditional childcare program and participate in programs unique to our Y, such as Bouncing Bears gymnastics, music class, and swim lessons.

The school year runs August to August.

Registration is rolling if space is available. Please call or email the Director if you are interested.



802 Ponus Ridge Road (203) 966-2937 – fax (203) 966-2325
New Canaan, CT 06840 www.playlandnurseryschool.com
Kathy Lopes, Director info@campplayland.com
Gary & Barbara Bloom,
Owners/Directors

We believe that the first school experience should be nurturing, fun and without pressure for children and their families. Playland provides a safe, warm, loving and nurturing environment and an enriching program for two, three, four and five-year-old children. At Playland, we combine short structured activities interspersed around longer open classroom experiences for a well-balanced program. Our loving staff provides an enriching program full of three-dimensional, hands-on activities. At Playland, learning is fun because we learn by doing. Our program is rich in play, math, science, literature, music and art. Children are encouraged to play and learn and to grow and mature socially, emotionally, cognitively and physically.

Programs that are offered:

- **Two Year Olds** – Option of two or three days a week;
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- **Three Year Olds** – Option of three, four or five days a week;
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- **Four Year Olds** - Meets five mornings a week; 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- **Older Fours and Fives** – Meets five mornings a week;
9:00 am – 12:00 pm, with extended day two days a week until
2:00 pm
- **Lunch Bunch and After School Programs**

School Year runs from September to May. A 3-week “Summer Warm Up” is available for preschoolers in June. Camp Playland operates for 8 weeks in the summer for ages 3 – 14.

Interested families are encouraged to visit Playland. Individual tours are available by appointment.



St Mark's Episcopal Church

ST. MARK'S PRESCHOOL
NEW CANAAN, CONNECTICUT

11 Oenoke Ridge (203) 972-7888
New Canaan, CT 06840 www.smpnc.org
Prisca M. Spitz, Director pspitz@smpnc.org

St. Mark's Preschool believes the educational process should address all areas of learning – social, emotional, spiritual, physical, and intellectual. A wide variety of activities are designed to reflect the children's interests and abilities and to help develop reasoning skills. The school provides a flexible curriculum of age-appropriate activities through which children learn and explore while guided and encouraged by their teachers. Structured activities emphasizing acquisition of basic skills are balanced with child-directed ones, providing many experiences that help nurture self-expression, self-discovery and self-esteem.

Programs that are offered:

- **Young Twos** – Tuesday and Thursday; 9:15-11:45am
- **Older Twos** – Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 9:00-12:00pm
- **Threes** – Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; 9:00-12:00pm
(optional fourth day on Wednesday as well as an optional Lunch Bunch Day on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays until 1:55pm)
- **Fours (Pre-K)** – Monday – Thursday; 9:00-12:00pm with Extended Day; Monday/Wednesday until 1:55pm
(optional fifth day available Friday; 9:00am-12:00pm)
- **Pre-K Fives** – Monday – Thursday; 9:00-12:00pm with Extended Day; Monday/Wednesday until 1:55pm
(optional fifth day available on Friday; 9:00am-12:00pm)

St. Mark's Preschool has four classes of 10 students with two teachers, maintaining a 1:5 ratio and 1:4 ratio for two year olds.

The school year runs from September to May.

If you are interested in SMP for your child or have additional questions, please contact the Director, Prisca M. Spitz, at (203) 972-7888, pspitz@smpnc.org or visit the admissions tab on our website.





ToddlerTime
Nursery School

An Education for **LIFE!**

23 Park Street, New Canaan, CT 06840
Phone: 203-972-3111 Fax: 203-972-3125
office@toddlertimens.org www.toddlertimens.org

Carolyn Williams, Director

Carolyn@toddlertimens.org

ToddlerTime Nursery School is owned by Barbara Davis J.D. and Carolyn Williams M.ED., both New Canaan residents and mothers. Together along with 22 other New Canaan women (and 10 more from surrounding towns), we provide innovative preschool, enrichment and summer camp programs for children ages 18 months until kindergarten in a secure and nurturing environment located in the heart of New Canaan. Teachers help the children develop both academic and life skills through carefully planned and facilitated investigations. ToddlerTime's custom curriculum offers a child centered approach and teachers who are encouraged to be innovative and take risks for the purpose of making the children's learning experiences exciting and extraordinary. Not only are we passionate about providing children the best early education experience possible but we are also committed to providing the same for parents by exceeding their expectations, being flexible and understanding of the demands of raising young children. We know that choosing to entrust your child with someone is a very important decision so we encourage you to come meet us and tour our school. **Text ToddlerTime to 22828 for more information.**

Social Butterflies 18-30 months T/TH 9-11am

Two's Tuesday/Thursday or Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9-11:30am or 12pm with extended day

Three's Monday, Wednesday, Friday or Monday-Friday 9-12pm

Four's/Pre-K Monday-Friday 9-1pm

Five's Monday-Friday 9-2p

Our Benefits:

- Vacations follow New Canaan Public School Schedule/177 days of school
- Longest running 2's program in town by 35 years
- Dedicated 5's program for those who have completed a 4's pre-k program
- Indoor and outdoor playgrounds
- Drop & Drive Option
- Extensive enrichment program from 12-2pm and 3:30-5pm, daily
- Vacation clubs on days school is closed
- Monthly family socials including Ice Cream Social, Trunk or Treat, Art Show, Parents Night Out
- In house arts and enrichment programs and local field trips to enhance curriculum
- Email and text communication
- Summer camp program including field trip camp
- Secure classrooms
- Focus on STEM Activities
- Centrally located in the heart of New Canaan
- Extended day until 4pm daily
- Facilitated at home playgroups
- New family mentor group



The Tot's Spot

87 Old Stamford Road

(203) 972-3161

New Canaan, CT 06840

www.totsspotnewcanaan.com

Barbara Skibitcky, Owner/Director

Barbara.skibitcky@gmail.com

The Tot's Spot (established in 1989) advocates the benefits of a multi-age environment for young children as well as the concept of looping, children remain with the same friends and teachers for a three year period, beginning at age 18 months/2 years until the transition to kindergarten.

The school year runs September – June as well as a summer camp program in July and August.

Interested families are asked to contact Barbara or Karin by phone or email.

