



ECCCS

Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington

Establishing a Community Family Child Care Network, Lessons from the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington

Joanne Kelleher, Director
www.southingtonearlychildhood.org

Agenda

- Introductions
- Local collaborative model - ECCCS
- NAFCC Accreditation Project
- FCC Support Groups
- How to Start Your Own Group

Why a Local Collaborative?

- Customize to fit needs of your community
- Focus set locally
- Geographically close
- Common issues



ECCCS

Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington

- Organized in 2003
- Under fiduciary responsibility of the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain
- Supports all childcare providers and families

Goals of Early Childhood Collaborative

- 1) Advocating for high quality preschool and childcare
- 2) Empowering parents, families and childcare providers through workshops and educational programs
- 3) Being a wide-ranging resource for community members on the subject of early childhood care and education

State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood

- Licensing and regulations
- Inspections
- Standards
- Education – First Aid, CPR, Business

Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children (CTAEYC)

- Educational Workshops
- Family Child Care (FCC) Network
 - Online learning resources
 - Network Academies
 - Technical assistance
 - Alliance building

ECCS Partners in the Community

- FCC Providers, Childcare Centers and Nursery Schools
- Board of Education, Elementary Schools, PTOs
- Town Government
- Police and Fire Departments
- Health Department
- Pediatricians and other healthcare providers
- Social Services Agencies
- Businesses

Community Survey

- Focus Groups with churches, PTO's, childcare providers, etc.
- Individual meetings with community leaders
- Identified needs of community
- Increased recognition

ECCS Website

- Maintain list of resources
- Details about school readiness
- Health, wellness and development topics
- Events
- “Community Plan”

www.southingtonearlychildhood.org



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Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington

Southington Age 3 to Grade 3 Collaborative

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All Southington children will enter school

healthy & ready to learn.

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Make a Donation

Resources Directory

Summer Activities



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Car Seats Laws

Connecticut has strict car seat regulations and child passenger safety laws which were last updated as of October 1, 2017.

The regulations list an age and weight, the child must meet both requirements.

- Infants must remain rear-facing until they are a minimum of 2 years old AND 30 pounds. This is an increase of 1 year and 10 pounds. Rear-facing car seats are not allowed in the front passenger seat with an operable airbag.
- Toddlers can ride either rear-facing or forward-facing in a child restraint system equipped with a five-point harness until 5 years AND 40 pounds.
- Children between 5 and 8 years old AND between 40 and 60 pounds can ride in a booster seat secured by a seat safety belt, forward-facing in a child restraint system equipped with a five-point harness, or rear-facing. Under the previous law this section referred to children 6 and under.
- Children who are at least 8 years old and 60 pounds, tweens and teens must be in a seat belt whenever they ride in a vehicle. It is further recommended that children should ride in the back seat until they are 13 years old.

All people and objects should be properly restrained whenever they are in a vehicle.

Make a Donation

Much of the work of the ECCS can only be accomplished with funding from our community partners and members. To support our work and continue to improve the lives of young children, consider making a donation.

Donate Today

Resources Directory

The ECCS is a partner with several community and state agencies and foundations. With that support and

Town Resources

Resources for parents and educators in Southington, Plantsville, Marion and Milldale

Summer Programs for Kids

Apogee Dance Academy

Mommy and Me program, Dance lessons for ages 3+, half day summer camp programs, 122 Spring Street, Unit D-2 Southington,

Phone: 860-628-8998

Web Site: <http://www.apogeedanceacademy.com>

Art Studio of Connecticut

Art Studio of Connecticut offers adult and children art classes, summer programs, field trips, birthday parties, paint and sip nights, family paint time and more. Opened April 2018,

1850 West Street, Rear of Building Southington,

Phone: 860-426-1188

Web Site: <http://www.ctartstudio.com>



Categories

- Assistance
- Before/After School Care
- Child Care Centers
- Dentists
- Elementary School
- Enrichment Programs
 - Elementary school age
 - Infants
 - Preschool age
 - Toddler
- Entertainment
- Family Child Care Homes
- Infants
- Mental Health



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Events & Workshops

- October 10, 2018 Kindergarten Readiness – Language Arts Workshop
- October 17, 2018 Kindergarten Readiness – Numeracy Workshop
- October 24, 2018 Kindergarten Readiness – Development Skills Workshop

Kindergarten Readiness – Language Arts Workshop

Date: October 10, 2018

Start Time: 6:30 pm with 6:00 registration **End Time:** 8:00 pm

Location: YMCA Learning Center

City: Southington

Address: 30 High Street, Southington

Parents and Providers are invited to Part 1 of our annual Kindergarten Readiness Series on Language Arts. Registration will open over the summer.

Hear what 3 and 4 year olds should be learning about reading and literacy to be prepared for entering kindergarten in the Fall of 2019.

Speaker – Stephanie Lawlor, Literacy Coordinator for Southington Schools.

Free childcare will be provided by the Southington YMCA. We hope you will be able to join us for one or all of these workshops.

Community Plan

Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington

This scorecard contains all the demographic information for Southington, as well as all the other scorecards



Our Community of Southington, Connecticut

<input type="checkbox"/> R	Demographics	Community Snapshot	Time Period	Actual Value	Current Trend	Baseline % Change	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> I	Demographics	Total Population	2016	43,675	2	10%
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> I	Demographics	Southington Births Per Year	2017	353	2	-6%
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> I	Demographics	Number of Single Parent Families	2010	1,152	1	18%
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> I	Demographics	Children Enrolled In Husky A	2016	1,737	1	96%
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> I	Demographics	Percent of Children Grades K-3 Eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch	2014	18%	1	125%
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> I	Demographics	Number of Children in Accredited Child-Care Settings	2015	50.0	1	-29%
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> I	Demographics	# of K-5 Public School Children	2018	2,726	3	-12%
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> I	Demographics	English Language Learners - Kindergarten	2013	31	1	7%
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> I	Demographics	High School Graduation Rate	2016	95.5%	3	9%

Social Media

- Facebook – Public ECCS Page
- Facebook – Closed Southington Childcare Providers Group
- Twitter
- Review Activity via Analytics

Other Communication Methods

- Brochures
- Business Cards
- Posters
- Event Flyers
- Letters – Town sends package to all new parents
- Local events – tablecloth, banner, signs

Events



Other Community Support

- Share other training opportunities with providers
- Answer questions about childcare, providers, etc.
- Referrals
- Advocacy work at State Capital with Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance
- Math Kits to all Providers
- Preschool bookshelf at soup kitchen



Educational Workshops

- For parents and providers
- Free
- Childcare provided
- Evening hours – usually register at 6, start at 6:30
- Snacks served
- Certificates of attendance provided

Gardening with Young Children

- Grant funded through local non-profit that promotes healthy living
- Taught by Master Gardener in local community garden
- For providers who work with preschoolers
- Take-aways included planted seeds
- Funding for garden supplies for each attendee

Music and Movement Project

- Grant funded through local community foundation
- Partnered with music therapy firm
- Four Workshops for providers
 - Transitions Can Be Easy
 - Rockin' Readers
 - Using Music to Teach ABC's and 123's
 - Music and Movement

Music and Movement

- Music therapy sessions in FCC home or at studio



Music and Movement



Music and Movement

- Purchased Instruments for FCC providers



Kindergarten Readiness

- Encouraged BOE to start Parent Night
- Kindergarten Readiness Workshops –
Literacy, Numeracy, Development Skills
and Fine Motor Skills
- Encourage Pre-K and K registration
- Books and math kits for incoming K students
- Worked with BOE to create survey of parents

Other ECCS Workshops

- [How to Advocate](#) - Learning to Speak Up for Children
- [Brain Growth, Pretend Play and the Outdoors](#)
- [Domestic Violence 101 and its Impact on Young Children](#)
- Impact of Childhood Trauma - upcoming

<http://www.southingtonearlychildhood.org/articles/>

Other Workshop Ideas

- First Aid and CPR
- Business Skills
- Child Development
- Nutrition
- Your Ideas?

Promoting Car Seat Safety

New Connecticut Car Seat Law:

Infants Rear-Facing
until a minimum
of **30 pounds**
AND 2 years old



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HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
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**FAMILY
RESOURCE
CENTER**


New Connecticut Car Seat Law:
In Booster Seat
until a minimum
of 60 pounds
AND 8 years old

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**Early Childhood Collaborative
of Southington**

Car Seat Safety Check with Police



ECCS's NAFCC Accreditation Project

- Goal – help FCC providers obtain NAFCC Accreditation
- Grant funded through local community foundation
- Book sales fundraiser
- Support group met once a month, during school year, for NAFCC and once a month for CDA
- Financial Assistance

NAFCC Project Funded

- Self-study materials
- Continuing education – need 90 hours in the 3 years prior to submitting application
 - Child Development Associate Credential
- Supplies
- Bicycle helmets
- Fingerprinting
- Application fee

Benefits of Creating FCC Support Group

- Encourages higher level of professionalism
- Pushed each other to be better
- More experienced guided newer
- Source for questions and concerns

Benefits of Creating FCC Support Group

- Shared resources
 - Extra materials
 - Contract and handbooks
- Gave referrals
- Scholastic Book Club as group so more free materials

Benefits of Creating FCC Support Group

- Supportive environment – helping each other, not competition
- Addresses loneliness and isolation
- Camaraderie and colleagues
- People to attend continuing ed workshops with, didn't have to go alone

Advice on NAFCC Accreditation Group

- Need someone to coordinate/facilitate
- Be intentional about timeline and commitment
- Need people who are committed to process and have time to do it.
- NAFCC can help start accreditation process in your area

Starting Your Own Collaborative

- Find champions
- Gather volunteers
- Hiring a director makes it easier to take it to next level – even at 5-10 hours a week

Identify Your Current Resources

- State agencies
- NAFCC at state or local level
- Other local organizations that support children or childcare providers
- Businesses
- Community leaders

Identify gaps and needs

- Parent education
- Provider education
- Provider support
- Programs for children
- All providers or FCC only?

Organizational Structure

- Virtual – Facebook closed group or public page
- Informal gatherings
- Sub-set of another organization
- Independent but under fiduciary responsibility of another non-profit
- Non-profit

Administrative

- Who will schedule/run organizational meetings?
- How much funding will you need? Budget
- Who will handle the money?
- Will you need insurance?
- Start small and grow over time

Funding

- Dues
- Donations
- Registration Fees
- Fundraisers – don't focus on time consuming events
- Grants

Foundations Give Grants

- Community
- Corporate
- Family
- Independent

<http://data.foundationcenter.org/>

Grant Writing

- An art and a science
- Focus on local grants – less competition
- Meet with your local foundation's program manager
- Identify sources and their grant proposal cycle
- Plan ahead

Grant Proposals

- Tell your story but back it up with facts
- Follow directions
- Pay attention to due dates
- Allow plenty of time
- The first one is the hardest

Supporting Your Collaborative

- Help spread the word
- Attend a Workshop
- Make a Donation
- Volunteer
- Join Board
- Attend Fundraiser
- Follow, Like, Share on Social Media

Thanks to ECCS Funders



- Community Foundation of Greater New Britain
- Bradley Henry Barnes & Leila Upson Barnes Memorial Trust at the Main Street Community Foundation
- Bristol Brass General Grant Fund and the Fuller & Myrtle Barnes Fund for Education at the Main Street Community Foundation
- Women and Girls Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation
- Petit Family Foundation
- Activate Southington

Questions???

Thank You

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www.southingtonearlychildhood.org

<https://www.facebook.com/ECCS Southington/>

https://twitter.com/ecc_southington

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