

**AVON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Avon Early Learning Center**  
**at Roaring Brook School**

**General Information**

- In **2020-21**, the Avon Early Learning Center at Roaring Brook School will be in its **24<sup>th</sup>** year of operation.
  
- The Avon Early Learning Center at Roaring Brook School is an early childhood program that serves students, ages 3 through 5, with and without disabilities. Preschoolers requiring special education services due to disabilities are eligible based on specific criteria established by the district in keeping with federal and state requirements. **Peer** students refers to those typically developing students who are included in the integrated classroom setting. Enrollment for peers in the preschool program is based on a lottery system which typically takes place in December and January. Information gets posted on the school website.
  
- The term **integrated setting** refers to an environment that includes children with and without disabilities for learning experiences and building social relationships. This is the model that our program utilizes in order to follow **best practice** for providing preschool special education programming within the public school setting.
  
- Our program is accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The NAEYC accreditation system sets the standard for excellence for early childhood education profession and families.
  
- Our program strives to maintain a **50/50 ratio or lower** of special education students to peer students within each class; this ratio may vary throughout the course of the year. Students who are determined to be eligible for special education services may be recommended to join the program at any time during the school year, thereby increasing the class size and potentially altering the ratio. Class sizes typically range from 10-18 students throughout the course of the school year.
  
- **Three Year Olds and Four Year Olds** will attend school on a full-day basis. All students will be assigned to a multi-aged classroom, which includes both age groups. Avon resident students and students enrolling in the Avon Public Schools through the Open Choice Program will be in attendance from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. – Monday through Friday.
  
- The Avon Early Learning Center is located at Roaring Brook School, 30 Old Wheeler Lane in Avon.
  
- Our program staff is comprised of the following professionals: Early Childhood Teachers/Special Education Teachers; Speech and Language Pathologist; Occupational Therapist; Physical Therapist; and in-class Paraprofessional staff; Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA); Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT). All of these professionals are resources to the program staff. Specific services for individual students are specified on the student’s individualized education plan (IEP).
  
- Our program follows the **CT Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS)** to guide its curriculum, into which other methodologies and strategies are woven in order to provide optimal learning experiences and kindergarten readiness for all students. The program also maintains a **developmentally appropriate** philosophy that meets students where they are and sets goals to support the individual progress across cognitive, social, and motor domains for each student.

- The program uses a **total language approach**, which incorporates verbal language, sign language, pictures/photographs and assistive technology (e.g. buttons, switches, etc...) to foster improved communication skills for *all* students.
- Children with disabilities may be eligible to attend our program as **special education** students if they have been evaluated, determined to be eligible for, and require special education services. Recommendations for placement in the program and services are made by the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) and documented on the Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- Opportunities to participate in music, art, and gross-motor activities will be woven into the school day. Adult staff members shall participate in these activities in order to elicit and support students' full participation and active learning.
- Preschool classes will use the **school playground and blacktop areas** for outdoor play (recess).
- While our program does not rely upon parents to serve as volunteers in the classrooms, various opportunities are provided for parents to come in and/or contribute to their child's classroom within some capacity.
- Our program follows the **Avon Public Schools' calendar**.
- **Parent-school communication** is key to student success and is provided by way of daily report sheets and the Remind App. These ensure that families are kept informed about general daily news, learning themes, curricular goals and important school-related information. Telephone and email contact is also utilized to share specific communication about your child, as needed.
- **Parent-Teacher conferences** are held twice yearly in order to discuss observations and progress. Written documents (reports, checklists, etc...) will also be provided at those times.
- Transportation is not available for peer students.
- Annual **tuition rates for peer students** are set by the Avon Public Schools and approved by the Board of Education. Parents are informed of the cost at the time of registration.
- The Avon Board of Education business office handles the financial aspects of the preschool program and is available to answer any questions parents may have about tuition payments.
- Additional information can be found in the Student Handbook on Avon Public Schools website, listed under the preschool program.

Proposed tuition fee for the 2020-21 school year is as follows:

3's & 4's - \$6,957.50/school year (5 full days per week, 9:00-3:00)