

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17

Department of Student Services

57 Little City Road
Higganum, CT 06441-0568

Kris Lindsay-Stevens, Ed.D, Director

Tonya Gorgone, Coordinator

Dear Families,

I'm writing to provide you with information about Sparkler, a developmental screening that is available for your child at no cost by the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood.

Sparkler is a mobile app-based service that is available for all families of 0-5 year olds. It has tools that you can use to track and monitor your child's development as well as videos containing suggestions for play-based learning activities to support your child's development. The app is very easy to use, and I think you'll find it fun and engaging.

This is how it works:

1. **Download Sparkler: Play for Parenting** from the Google Play Store if you have an Android phone or tablet or from the Apple App Store if you use an iPhone or iPad.
2. Open the app and tap **Create a New Account**. Parent information goes here.
3. Enter Your **Sparkler Access Code** to connect with RSD 17. The codes are as follows:

 RSD17 for children currently attending the Integrated Preschool Program or

 RSD17Fam for children who are NOT attending the Integrated Preschool Program
4. **Set Up** (enter your email, password)
5. **Create Account** (name is required; address, zip and mobile (optional))
6. **Add a Child** (name, pronoun, birthday, etc.). If you don't see the name of your program here, you might not have entered the code correctly. Enter it here under the Cohort/Provider Key.
7. **Profile Questions** (optional)
8. Review **Sponsoring Partners** and **Privacy**
9. **Screening**: Tap **ASQ** (The Ages and Stages Questionnaire) to answer questions about your child's development.

Telephone: 860-345-4244

Fax: 860-345-3051

10. **Submit and Get Results:** Results will be emailed to you at a later time. It will contain insights about your child's growth and development.
11. **Play to Learn:** Sparkler provides personalized play ideas for you and your child. Interactive activities include art projects, games, outings, role playing, reading, problem solving and more.
12. **Develop Skills:** Activities are standards-based and designed to help children develop in four key areas: heart, words, mind and body.

You can track your child's accomplishments in Sparkler's scrapbook. You can also opt to share information with other caregivers (like a babysitter or grandparent) to keep track of progress together. You can get tips and advice from the preschool team at RSD #17 or 211 if you need them.

If you have questions about your child's development and do not wish to access the Sparkler app, you are encouraged to contact 211 Child Development at 1-800-505-7000 or contact me directly at 860-345-4244 or Klindsay-stevens@rsd17.org. I will be happy to speak with you!

Sincerely,

Kris Lindsay-Stevens

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Director