

RSD17 Preschool Program

Inclusive, play-based, child-centered

About Our Program

The Regional School District #17 Preschool Program is an inclusive early childhood program serving children ages 3–5. Research shows that learning and development are most rapid during the preschool years, and our program is designed to support children during this critical time through developmentally appropriate, play-based learning.

We provide special education and related services to eligible children in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which guarantees a free and appropriate public education beginning at age three. Typically developing peers also participate in the program and serve as role models for language, social, and play skills.

Learning Approach & Curriculum

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Our classrooms are play-based, language-rich, and child-centered. Children engage in learning throughout the day:

- Circle time
- Facilitated play centers
- Fine and gross motor activities
- Snack or lunch
- Outdoor play

Instruction is individualized through each child's Individualized Education Program (IEP), while supporting engagement and growth for all students.

The program follows the **Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards (CT ELDS)** and uses research-based curricula, including:

- **Creative Curriculum** – hands-on, project-based learning
- **Foundations** – early literacy and foundational reading skills
- **Bridges Math** – early mathematical thinking and problem solving
- **Heggerty** – phonological and phonemic awareness

Location & Staffing

Our program is located at Killingworth Elementary School. We have two classrooms staffed by certified special education teachers and paraeducators. A multidisciplinary team, including a speech and language pathologist, occupational and physical therapists, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, and a school psychologist, supports the classrooms. The program is overseen by the Elementary Coordinator in partnership with the school principal.

Program Schedule

- **Morning Program:** Four mornings per week (8:20–11:10 AM)
- **Afternoon Program:** Five afternoons per week (12:10–3:05 PM)

The morning program serves primarily 3-year-old children, while the afternoon program serves primarily 4-year-old children. Attendance is determined by each child's IEP.

Special Education Eligibility & Services

Children ages 3–5 may be referred by parents, Birth to Three providers, medical professionals, or school staff. Eligibility is determined through a comprehensive evaluation and PPT meeting. RSD #17 offers a continuum of services ranging from itinerant therapies to preschool classroom participation. Extended School Year (summer) services may be provided when appropriate.

Community Peer Models

We have a limited number of spots available for typically developing peers. Selection is determined by lottery. Tuition details will be provided annually, and families are responsible for arranging their own transportation. Requirements include that peer models must:

- Be age 3 by the first day of school
- Be fully toilet-trained
- Participate in the spring screening

Contact Information

For more information, please contact:

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