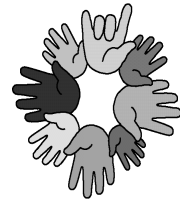




**CONNECTICUT COLLEGE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM**  
**Box 5215, New London, Connecticut, 06320**  
**Telephone (860) 439-2920**



## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Connecticut College Children's Program is a model child and family-focused early childhood preschool program for young children of diverse backgrounds and abilities. It provides a laboratory setting for college student placements and student and faculty research opportunities. Each year the program serves approximately 90 children and their families. The children and families in the program are reflective of the general population of New London County who are seeking a high quality early childhood program.

The program staffing includes a team of professionals (i.e. early childhood and special education teachers, speech, occupational and physical therapists, social worker, consulting psychologist, administrative assistant and administrators) working together to design and implement the most optimal program for young children. There are program options available for children ages 18 months to six years. Programs for children under three years range from playgroups for 5 – 8 children to 1:1 sessions with a teacher or therapist. Programs for children three to six years old range from preschool classrooms with 12 –16 children, to smaller clusters of children, to 1:1 sessions with a teacher or therapist. All the grouping plans for the children are based on a carefully designed inclusion model. This means that children with a range of developmental strengths will be placed in developmentally appropriate, heterogeneous groupings (i.e. gender, age, cultural background, ability, etc.).

The curriculum is based on the premise that play is the way children interact with and learn from their environment. Play is the child's genetically determined and inherent means of learning. It provides the opportunity for the child to organize thoughts, feelings, and skills within the context of exploring the new, and making sense of the familiar. Developmentally appropriate play is encouraged in the program by supporting children in meaningful relationships with one another, with adults, and in their use of materials and ideas. Play is a way for children to have power and control over their world as they practice emerging skills. The areas of fine and gross motor skills, language and cognitive skills, social/emotional skills and creative expression are promoted through developmentally appropriate play options such as art, block building, dramatic play, music, movement, story time, and outdoor play, and are included in a typical day's activities. Each day is carefully planned to suit the individual child's developmental needs as well as the group's goals and developmental needs. Staff members and college students observe and record children's progress. These daily records are used in planning and the setting of new goals, as well as to assist in writing the children's progress reports.

Parental involvement is an integral part of the program. There are various options for parents of children in the program to participate, including individual meetings with program staff, parent groups, observation from booths through one- way mirrors, and open houses.

The program is funded through private and public sources that include Connecticut College, the State Department of Education, and family-paid tuition. There is also collaborative programming with New London Public Schools, New London School Readiness Council, Children First New London, LEARN, and Local Educational Agencies (LEA). The program has also received funds through private foundations and private donors including the Chamber of Commerce, Community Foundations, the Bodenwein Foundation, the Weyenberg Foundation, and the Frank Loomis Palmer Foundation.

The preschool program functions on a forty-seven week school year. School is open late August until mid-June, and then reopens for an optional eight week summer session. Our Birth to Three program serves children and their families throughout the year. The Birth to Three toddler group experiences, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and social work services are available according to the schedule determined by the Individual Family Service Plan. This school is approved by the Connecticut State Department of Education as a private special education program and is accredited nationally by NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children).

The office is open Monday - Friday 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. If you would like to discuss the program in greater detail please call the office at (860) 439-2920 and arrange to speak with the Director, Dr. Kathryn O'Connor, or the Associate Director, Beatrice DeMitte, M.S.