

Seven Things Connecticut Needs to Know About Early Childhood...In Brief

1. The earliest years count – most of the brain’s growth occurs in the first few years of life.
2. Parents and families matter – children learn from birth and need constant care and stimulation as they explore the world. Parents are a child’s first teachers.
3. School readiness is more than words and numbers – it is important for children to learn not only the foundation skills for reading and math, but also physical, social and emotional skills.
4. School unreadiness costs – when children enter school developmentally behind, they are more likely to have difficulties in school. The ultimate costs to society may include health issues, special education, school retention, delinquency and incarceration.
5. With so many parents working, we need to get this right – 62% of Connecticut’s children under 6 live in families where the sole parent or both parents work.
6. Quality matters – the quality of early childhood programs is crucial: quality improves development, but poor programs can cause harm.
7. Investments pay off – Connecticut studies show that early education programs save costs by reducing the need for special education and for grade retention, and economists have estimated a 16% rate of return on investments in high quality early learning programs.

* Adapted from Ready, Set, Grow...CT Kids campaign newspaper supplement published in *The Hartford Courant*

**We envision a
community where
every child in East
Haven will be healthy
and ready to learn by
age five and achieve
developmental success
by age nine.**

*East Haven Early Childhood
Collaborative*

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East Haven, CT 06512
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East Haven Early Childhood Collaborative



Good Beginnings...

Never End

Become an advocate for East Haven's children

Develop parent leadership

Increase the quantity and quality of childcare in E. Haven

Promote discussion of early childhood issues

Join us in making a difference in the lives of East Haven's children. We are East Haven's Early Childhood Collaborative, a dedicated group of parents, grandparents, childcare providers, early childhood educators, town and school employees and other community members who act on behalf of East Haven children from birth to age 8.

What we can accomplish by working together:

- Provide information to parents and caregivers that help them nurture children's development and learning
- Create a clearinghouse where issues affecting East Haven's children can be discussed and addressed
- Enhance cooperation among those who work with East Haven's children
- Help our town's leaders understand what East Haven's children and families need

Some of our accomplishments since the formulation of East Haven's Early Childhood Collaborative include:

- Conducting Asset Mapping assessment
- Sponsoring parent leadership training programs
- Presenting East Haven's early childhood community report
- Promoting dialogue among early care providers and elementary schools

East Haven's Early Childhood Collaborative

grew out of the School Readiness Council when the Family Resource Center at D. C. Moore School was established in 1998. The council by law, must consist of varied representatives including town officials, education officials, parents, representatives local programs that provide childcare and education. In 2002, the Collaborative entered a partnership with The William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund expanding the mission of the Collaborative to include improving smooth transition of children from preschool to kindergarten, improving students' social, emotional and academic performance and improving the quantity and quality of early care programs in East Haven.

The East Haven Early Childhood Collaborative is led by an executive committee that consists of a chairman, coordinator and members from education, government and the community. Membership is open to East Haven residents and anyone working on behalf of East Haven's children. Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month in the Hagaman Memorial Library Community Room at noon. At these meetings, everyone is encouraged to contribute experiences, ideas and insights to increase our ability to reach our objectives in an effective way.

To join the EHECC, please fill out the application form below and return to:

Paul Perrelli, Coordinator
E. H. Early Childhood Collaborative
1 Maple Street
East Haven, CT 06512

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Are you...

A parent?

A grandparent?

A child care provider?

A child service provider?

Other?

For more information, please call Paul Perrelli at 203-752-6024 or email at ehc@east-haven.k12.ct.us

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