



Resources for Children With Special Needs in Greater Danbury

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Information is provided for referral only. Danbury Children First does not endorse or recommend any provider or service.

General Information and Referrals

2-1-1

Provides free, confidential referrals on child care, health services, disability services, counseling, crisis intervention, and more. [Offers information on services and support groups both inside and outside of the Greater Danbury area.](#) Available 24 hours a day, every day.

Phone: Dial 2-1-1
Website: www.211infoline.org

Help Me Grow

Free, confidential service. Connects families to community services related to health, behavior, development, and parenting. Provides child development information to families with children birth through age 8.

Phone: 1-800-505-7000

Early Intervention/ Preschools

Connecticut's Birth to Three System

If you have concerns about a child's ability to see, talk, hear, move, eat, or play. Serves children in Connecticut up to age 3 who have significant delays in development or certain medical conditions. Refers families to Danbury-area providers.

Phone: 1-800-505-7000
Website: www.birth23.org

Head Start of Northern Fairfield County

Free, high-quality program for 3- and 4-year-old children from income-eligible families. Serves children with special needs.

Phone: Kathy Brinkerhoff, 203-743-3993

Danbury School Readiness Program

Offers high-quality, accessible, affordable early childhood programs. Serves children with special needs.

Phone: Eileen Costello, 203-791-1904

Public School Preschools

Most Connecticut public schools offer pre-school programs for children with special needs. Call the numbers listed below to find out what your school district offers.

Public Schools

Danbury Public Schools

ESL Reception Center 203-790-2849

Danbury Public Schools Early Childhood Program

For children ages 3-5 who may have difficulty listening, talking, playing, thinking, moving, understanding, or learning.

Fran Tyluki 203-797-4832

Director of Pupil Services

Charlie Manos 203-797-4726

Director of Special Education

Joyce Emmet 203-790-2613

Elementary Special Education Supervisor

Donna Warner 203-797-4775

Middle School Special Education Supervisor

Val Tracey 203-790-2685 (Broadview)
or 203-790-2831 (Rogers Park)

High School Special Education Supervisor

Kathy Welsh 203-790-2868

Bethel Public Schools

Director of Special Education

Linda Pica 203-794-8616

Brookfield Public Schools

Director of Special Education

Lois Pernice 203-775-7752

New Fairfield Public Schools

Director of Elementary Special Education

Dept. Amee Turner 203-312-5776

Newtown Public Schools

Director of Special Education

Dr. Michael Regan 203-426-7626

Supervisor of Spec. Ed., PreK-Grade 12

Janet Calabro 203-426-7626

Redding Public Schools

Director of Special Education

Brian Farrell 203-938-9026

Ridgefield Public Schools

Director of Special Education

Karen Berasi 203-431-2800 ext. 2020

Special Education Supervisor

Kathy Murphy 203-431-2800 ext. 2010

Local Parent Support and Advocacy

Danbury Area Autism Spectrum Parent Group

Support group for parents of children on the Autism Spectrum. Meets at Walnut Hill Community Church, Bethel.

Phone: Bruni Edwards at 203-797-8116

Connecticut Family Support Network

Northwest Region

Provides resources for families raising children with disabilities. Offers parent networking, support groups, agency referrals, and help with advocating for local programs and services.

Phone: 860-350-6025

E-mail: aliceMMBB@aol.com

Danbury Down Syndrome Support Group

Organizes play groups, parties, and holiday events for families.

Phone: MaryAnn Flanagan at 203-778-4873

E-mail: littlelollie@sbcglobal.net

Familias Hispanas Unidas en el area de Danbury

Provides support and information to Spanish-speaking parents who have children with special needs. Meets Saturday mornings.

Phone: Gloria Mora, 203-797-8088

Greater Danbury Child & Family Network

A group of parents and professionals who advocate for children with special needs. A Local Interagency Coordinating Council of the Birth to Three program, it provides feedback to the State, offers workshops, and sponsors Family Fun Nights.

Phone: 203-791-8312 or 203-797-8088

E-mail: carolinel@danburychildrenfirst.org

Newtown Youth and Family Services

Offers a monthly Autism Support Group and a Support Group for Siblings of Children with Special Needs.

Phone: 203-270-4335

Website:

www.newtownyouthandfamilyservices.org

Northwest CT Regional Medical Home

Initiative for Children and Youth with Special Care Needs

Serves Danbury-area families. Provides care coordination, family support, advocacy, Title V Funds, benefits coordination.

Phone: 203-709-5716

Toll Free 866-517-4388

E-mail: rvitale@stmh.org

WeCAHR

Serves all disabilities and all ages. Helps people get the services and supports they need to attend school and live and work successfully in the community. Offers advocacy counseling, training, and support.

Phone: 203-792-3540

Website: www.wecahr.org

Oral Health Resources

Danbury Public School Community and School Based Dental Program

Provides two mobile school-based dental clinics and one fixed site clinic.

Phone: 203-790-2812

Connecticut Oral Health Providers that

Work with Children with Special Needs:

Yale Pediatric Dental Services 203-785-2697

UCONN Pediatric Dentistry 860-545-9030

Southbury Training School 203-586-2302

Danbury Hospital Dental Services

203-791-5010

Please see reverse for more resource information...

Respite Resources

Connecticut Lifespan Respite Coalition

Works to establish quality, coordinated respite services in Connecticut. Offers the free book "Get Creative About Respite" as well as one-on-one counseling and workshops.

Phone: 860-513-0172

Website: www.ctrespice.org

Connecticut Department of Developmental Services (DDS) West Region

To apply for DDS supports and services, including respite funds:

Phone: 1-866-433-8192

E-Mail: DDS.eligibility@ct.gov

DDS Family Respite Centers

Provide 24-hour, supervised respite care, support, and recreational activities. Contact your DDS case manager or:

Phone: 1-866-274-3888

Website: www.ct.gov/dds

For information on fee-based respite providers, contact www.ctrespice.org or dial 2-1-1.

Recreational Opportunities

Many municipal park and recreation programs have programs that accommodate or cater to children with special needs. Just ask!

Danbury Parks and Recreation 797-4632

Bethel Parks and Recreation 794-8531

Brookfield Parks and Recreation 775-7310

New Fairfield Parks and Rec. 312-5633

Newton Parks and Recreation 270-4340

Redding Parks and Recreation 938-2557

Ridgefield Parks and Recreation 431-2775

Regional YMCA of Western Connecticut

Offers some programs for children with special needs and will adapt programs when possible.

Phone: 203-744-1000 or 203-775-4444

Special Olympics Connecticut Provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for children with intellectual disabilities.

Phone: Michelle Kimmel at 203-787-8374

Website: www.soct.org

Angelfish Aquatic Therapy Provides fee-based group and individual aquatic therapy sessions. Sliding scale. 1-203-545-0024

Pegasus Therapeutic Riding

Therapeutic horseback riding for children with special needs, ages 4 and up. No one is turned away based on inability to pay.

Phone: Suzann Emmens 845-669-8235 ext. 105

SuperKids Provides fee-based social skills therapy and groups for children and teens. Sliding fee scale available.

Phone: 203-431-9150

Mental/Behavioral Health Services

Danbury Hospital Center for Child and Adolescent Treatment Services

Mental health services for children, teens, and families.

Phone: 203-830-6082

Family & Children's Aid Child Guidance Center

Offers a range of mental health and counseling services for children and parents.

Phone: 203-748-5689

Website: www.fcaweb.org

The Family Focus Partnership of Danbury

Creates a partnership between families and providers to enhance services for families who have children with mental health needs.

Phone: 203-733-6166

Catholic Family Services Offers counseling services for children and families. Accepts insurance; offers a sliding fee scale.

Phone: 203-743-4412

KIDHELP Northwest Crisis 24-Hour

Hotline Emergency psychiatric services for children/families. Toll free: 866-543-2774

CT Dept. of Children and Families

Voluntary Services For children who are diagnosed with a mental health disorder.

Phone: Toll free 800-842-2288

Wellpath Provides care coordination for children with behavioral health disorders.

Phone: 203-756-7287 ext. 306

Newtown Youth & Family Services Individual, group, and family counseling for all ages. No one turned away because of inability to pay.

Phone: 203-426-8103

Danbury Youth Services Offers a Youth and Family Counseling program. 203-748-2936

Statewide Support/Advocacy

African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities (AFCAMP)

Offers support groups, trainings on special education, disability law, and advocacy.

Phone: 860-297-4358

Arc of Connecticut Protects the rights of people with intellectual, cognitive, and developmental disabilities.

Phone: 860-246-6400

Website: www.arcct.com

Autism Society of Connecticut

Serves as a statewide autism resource, raises awareness, and provides grants to families.

Phone: 888-453-4975

Website: www.autismsocietyofct.org

Board of Education Services for the Blind

Provides services to people of all ages who experience significant vision loss.

Phone: 860-602-4000

Website: www.besb.state.ct.us

Connecticut Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities (CACLD)

Offers a resource center, Help Line, workshops, etc. for those with Learning Disabilities and Attention Deficit Disorders.

Phone: 203-838-5010

Website: www.caclld.org

Connecticut Autism Spectrum Resource Center (ASRC)

Serves individuals with autism and their families. Provides support, connection to resources, and advocacy training.

Phone: 203-265-7717

Website: www.ct-asrc.org

Connecticut Commission on the Deaf and

Hearing Impaired Offers a guide to services for the deaf and hard of hearing in Connecticut.

Phone: 800-708-6796

Website: www.cdhi.ct.gov

Connecticut Council on Developmental

Disabilities Promotes inclusion of people with disabilities in community life.

Phone: 860-418-6160

Website: www.ct.gov/ctcdd

Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress

Improves the lives of persons with Down Syndrome. Offers information, resources, newsletter, and family support and events.

Phone: 888-486-8537

Website: www.ctdownsyndrome.org

CONNBIDA: Connecticut Branch of the International Dyslexia Association

Promotes the understanding, treatment, and prevention of the problems of Dyslexia.

Phone: 203-865-6163 ext. 257

Website: www.CONNBIDA.org

Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center

(CPAC) Supports families of children with any disability or chronic illness, ages birth to 21. Parent consultants, workshops, trainings, a newsletter, information on support groups.

Phone: 800-445-2722

Website: www.cpacinc.org

Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut

Provides support, advocacy, education, and services to people with epilepsy and their families.

Phone: Toll free 800-899-3745

Website: www.epilepsy.ct.com

FAVOR Family Advocate Program

For parents and caregivers of children with mental health needs. Offers direct advocacy, information, education, resources, and support.

Phone: Toll free 866-630-6055

Website: www.favor-ct.org

Learning Disabilities Association of

Connecticut (LDA of CT, Inc.) Secures educational and employment opportunities for children and adults with learning disabilities.

Phone: 860-560-1711

Website: www.ldact.org

NAMI of CT Child and Adolescent Network

Self-help, support and advocacy for families whose children have biological brain disorders.

Phone: 860-882-0236

Website: www.namict.org

Office of Protection and Advocacy for

Persons with Disabilities Protects rights of people with disabilities; offers information, referral, and advocacy services; investigates complaints; and provides education/training.

Phone: 800-842-7303 (V/TTY)

Website: www.ct.gov/opapd

PATH (Parents Available to Help, Inc.)

Offers a parent-to-parent listener program, information on disability and medical resources, a newsletter, and a family listserv.

Phone: 800-399-7284 or 203-234-9554

Website: www.pathct.org