



Kid Connection Preschool

Winchester Recreation

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Welcome to Kid Connection!



- Kid Connection is a creative, engaging preschool program that supports early childhood learning and development in a nurturing environment.
- Our theme-based curriculum combines learning through play with teacher directed activities, with a focus on social emotional development, kindness, positive behavior, and growing independence. Preschool is a place where children are safe to be themselves and explore through hands-on experiences.
- Children learn through play- In addition to early learning concepts of number, letters, early literacy, science, and more, children are learning to socialize with others, develop self-control, ask questions, and advocate for themselves. They learn to follow direction, follow routines, and learn responsibility for themselves and others.
- We offer half day classes from 3 to 5 days, for ages 2.9+ as of September 1st. We also offer extended day options and a full day prekindergarten class. Our school year aligns with the Winchester Public school calendar (holidays, vacations, conference days, snow days)

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We believe that children learn through play, with the support and encouragement of highly qualified early childhood educators. Our mission is to provide a creative and nurturing environment where children develop a love for learning, and can learn and grow through hands-on experiences. We strive to build on the support provided by each child's family and their community, with respect for diversity and the unique needs of every child.

Our program is licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and our curriculum follows the Guidelines for Preschool Learning Experiences developed by the Massachusetts Board of Education.

Meet Our Staff

Our lead teachers are EEC certified and all staff are trained in First Aid and CPR. Teacher:student ratio is 1:6

Sonja Ferraguto-Director

I have been with Kid Connection for 18 years. This is my 8th year as director, after spending most of my teaching as lead in Building Blocks. I grew up in Woburn, where I also raised my family, and ran a home daycare when they were young. I currently live in Salisbury and have three grown children. I am Director II certified through EEC and have a BS in Early Childhood Education at Salem State University.

Beth Alves- Lead Teacher, Building Blocks

I have been teaching at Kid Connection for 16 years. I have been on the Building Blocks team for the past six years, and have experience in all of the classrooms, including lead teacher in Stepping Stones and Alphabet Soup, and assistant director of our summer program. I also work in the recreation department's afterschool program. I have two young boys, and my oldest attended Kid Connection.

Andrea D'Avolio, Assistant Teacher, Building Blocks

This will be my 20th year teaching at Kid Connection! I have experience in all of the classrooms, from Fun School to Building Blocks. I live in Reading with my husband, and we have four grown children, who also attended Kid Connection.

Michelle Blumsack- Lead Teacher, Little Rascals

I live in Winchester with my husband, Alex, and 4 children (Samantha, Shelley, Jack & Carly). I have a master's in Finance, but followed my dream to teach preschool ten years ago at Kid Connection.

Tammy McCormack- Assistant Teacher, Little Rascals

I began teaching at kid Connection 4 years ago, but I have been associated with Kid Connection for many years- as a nanny, a parent, and a now, a teacher. I have 18 years of experience as a nanny in Winchester and Arlington. My three children are Kid Connection graduates.

Diana Baquero- Assistant Teacher, Little Rascals

I have taught at Kid Connection in both Building Blocks and Little Rascals for almost eleven years. Prior to that, I taught 1st grade in Boston, and kindergarten in Beijing. My twins attended Kid Connection, and are attending WHS.





Tatyana D'Agostino- Lead Teacher, Alphabet Soup This is my 4th year teaching at Kid Connection, and my 2nd as lead teacher. I am also the Art director for the summer recreation program, and work in the afterschool program here at the recreation department. I graduated from Fitchburg State University with a major in Interdisciplinary Studies in Education and a minor in Special Education. Outside of school, I love spending time with my family.



Dole Galvin- Assistant Teacher, Alphabet Soup; Stay & Play I have been teaching for 7 years at Kid Connection. I attended the Masters in Education program at Pine Manor College and taught at their Child Study Center. This past summer, I was the Sports and Activities Director for our summer recreation program. Both of my boys are alums of Kid Connection.



**Patrice Ambrogne - Assistant teacher, Alphabet Soup
Yoga instructor** This is my second year teaching at Kid Connection. I have lived my whole life in Melrose, where I raised my triplet boys. I have always wanted to teach, and my experience includes working in a preschool inclusion class with special needs children. I also work as a nanny and yoga instructor, and enjoy sharing yoga with our Kid Connection students in the classroom.

Macey Mietelski- Lead teacher, Stepping Stones I love being a preschool teacher and began working at Kid Connection in 2012, soon after my children finished their preschool years here. I have also been lead teacher in Alphabet Soup. I live in Winchester with my husband and two children. Outside of school, I love spending time with my family.



Carol Arria- Assistant teacher, Stepping Stones I began teaching at Kid Connection as a substitute, and this is my second year on the Stepping Stones team. I am also the Group leader for the WRAP kindergarten afterschool program. I cared for other children while raising my four sons, and when they started school, began teaching as a kindergarten assistant, followed by 11 years as an assistant in an integrated special needs preschool in Arlington.



Curriculum & Enrichment

CURRICULUM AND ENRICHMENT

Our dedicated teachers design a **theme-based** curriculum, combining a “learning through play” approach with teacher directed lessons to create a rich learning environment. Kid Connection respects each parent as their child’s first educator, and we welcome your involvement in your child’s care and education, as we build a cooperative relationship between teachers, children, and their families.

In addition to our regular schedule, we offer enrichment opportunities throughout the year, including yoga, gymnastics, Kidstock, music, field trips, and more! We invite parents to read to the class, volunteer for activities or field trips, and share family traditions in the classroom.



“Author visit”



A typical day in preschool...What concepts are we learning?



Choice time- social-emotional skills, decision making, exploring new materials, sharing

Table Activities- cooperative learning, listening, communication skills, fine motor skills, following direction

Dramatic Play- role playing, problem solving

Playground/Gym- gross motor, cooperation, spatial awareness, hand-eye coordination

Snack Time- community, communication, health and safety, self-help skills

Circle Time- listening, taking turns, literacy, music

Art / Sensory Play- exploring new materials, creativity, fine motor skills, science



Our Preschool Classes

STEPPING STONES - Age 2.9 by Sept. 1
\$4,425/year or \$442.50/month

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9:00am-12:00pm
Max class size 16/ 3 teachers

Stepping Stones offers a first preschool experience for your child, where they can explore through hands on activities with support for their emerging independence, social/emotional, and self-help skills. The themed curriculum focuses on learning through play, and introduction of early learning concepts.

ALPHABET SOUP - Age 3.5 by Sept. 1
\$4,350/year or \$435/month

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9:00am-12:00pm
Max class size 16/ 3 teachers

Alphabet Soup offers a structured preschool experience for younger 3's, preparing for our pre-kindergarten classes in Little Rascals and Building Blocks. The themed curriculum focuses on learning through play, creativity, exploring art materials, introducing letters and numbers, and improving fine motor skills through writing and manipulatives. We also emphasize the concept of community within the classroom, as we continue to support developing self-help skills, social interactions, and growing independence.

LITTLE RASCALS - Age 3.10 by Sept. 1
\$5,250/year or \$525/ month

Monday – Thursday, 9:00am-12:15pm
Max class size 18/ 3 teachers

Little Rascals extends learning opportunities for older 3's and younger 4's. Play and learning activities build on independence, self- confidence, and social skills. Pre-academic concepts are taught through a themed curriculum, with a focus on hands on learning, dramatic play, cooperation, and community, preparing children for Building Blocks class or Kindergarten.

BUILDING BLOCKS - Age 4.3 by Sept. 1
\$6,200/year or \$620/month

Monday – Friday, 9:00am-12:30pm
Max class size 18/ 3 teachers

Building Blocks is a prekindergarten class combining teacher led activities and student explorations to create an engaging and active learning environment. The themed curriculum focuses on early math and literacy skills, responsibility and cooperation, self-help skills, and growing independence, preparing your older preschooler for kindergarten.

BUILDING BLOCKS-Extended Day
\$9,200 or \$920 per month

Monday – Friday, 9:00am-2:00pm
Max class size 18/ 3 teachers

The full day option provides more time for hands-on learning and socializing with classmates. Children bring their own lunch and engage in activities that allow for additional exploration of the daily curriculum. The full day also helps to meet the needs of older 4's or younger 5's, who benefit from an additional year of preschool before kindergarten.

Options to extend learning and play!



Both programs are only open to students enrolled in Kid Connection classes who do not already attend on these days (open to Stepping Stones, Alphabet Soup, and Little Rascals) Depending on enrollment, classes may be mixed age.

New! Discovery Days: Monday 9:00-12:00 Friday: 9:00am-12:00pm
\$1375/year per day or \$137.50/month per day

Acting out stories, exploring art materials, music, and movement, building and creating... more of what your child loves about learning! If you prefer a full week schedule for your younger preschooler, you can add one or two *Discovery Days* to complete their week. Play and educational activities will complement the weekly curriculum themes and learning concepts in your child's class to extend their learning.

Stay and Play

"STAY AND PLAY" gives your child extra time for fun and learning! Our extended day program is offered Monday through Friday, from the time your child is dismissed from their class, until 2:00pm. Your child will have lunch (provided from home), quiet time, and additional time for hands on activities and outdoor play. Our teacher to child ratio is 1:6. You may register for any day(s) when your child normally attends. We require a minimum of 3 children enrolled to hold this program on any day, and children should be potty trained to attend.

Monthly cost for extended day options:

\$110/month for 1 Day
\$205/month for 2 Days
\$300/month for 3 Days
\$390/month for 4 Days
\$480/month for 5 Days

Single days/drop-ins are available at a fee of \$35/day if enrollment is not full. We ask that parents request by the Friday before to ensure adequate staffing.

Preschool Classrooms

Stepping Stones



Alphabet Soup



Prekindergarten Classrooms

Little Rascals (3.10+)



Building Blocks (4.3+)





“Parent Perks”



Group snack program- Our snack schedule designates a weekly family for each class to provide snack for the week. One less “to-do” on your morning checklist, and the children enjoy a wider variety of foods to try! We are a peanut/tree-nut free program, including snacks made in a facility that processes nut snacks.

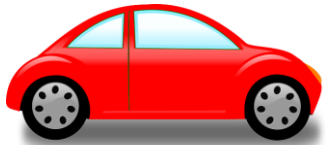
Morning drop-off- We provide a convenient active drop-off by our playground gate- simply pull-up and we will welcome your child to school, and guide them to their classroom. No need to take your other children out of the car or walk through messy weather. Dismissal- park and dismiss at the gate.

Communication-Weekly emails from teachers, class Instagram accounts, Fall conferences, and Spring assessments, all provide for a wealth of communication in regard to your child’s daily activities and developmental progress. We also have a family directory to help connect families and arrange playdates, and a monthly calendar and newsletter for special events and reminders.

Get involved!- Join our Parent Advisory Committee!

PAC supports Kid Connection through planning social events, fundraisers, coordinating activities with teachers for field trips and classroom activities. Funds support enrichment activities and purchases including field trips, Kidstock performances, outdoor mud kitchens, play structures, sand boxes, classroom extras, and more.

- More ways to help...Donations of classroom items, volunteer services, etc.
- Monthly meetings that fit your busy schedule (zoom, etc.)
- A great way to meet other parents!



Registration Information

Open House is held in January for Fall registration. Currently enrolled families and Kid Connection alumni have priority placement during the first week. Open registration follows, for new students. If registrations exceed the number of openings, a lottery is held at the end of the registration period to fill available spots in each class and determine a waitlist. Enrollment packets are distributed to accepted students in June, and a one-month deposit is due on June 15th.

Registration - Please call the preschool office to register. Once the school year begins, new students may be accepted as space allows. Midyear registrations are accepted on a case-by-case basis, based on previous preschool experience.

Registration Fees:

All applicants: \$50 registration fee (non-refundable)

Accepted students-One month deposit due by June 15th to confirm enrollment

Tuition- full year tuition is divided into ten monthly payments (including the initial one-month deposit) and automatically deducted from account kept on file.

Parent Orientation will be held in September, and a parent handbook will be distributed with school policies and procedures.