



NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
3 Primrose Street • Newtown, CT 06470

December 7, 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Thank you for your interest in the Newtown Public Schools Preschool Program. The program offers quality educational services to children who have disabilities and to typically developing peers, referred to as Play Partners. Play Partners are role models to their disabled peers and benefit from instruction aligned to Connecticut Early Learning Development Standards.

The preschool program uses the Connecticut Early Learning Development Standards as a resource to identify those candidates who might serve as strong models, play partners, for disabled peers in the class. Therefore, it is important for the preschool team to meet applicants to observe their presentation of age appropriate language skills, cognitive skills, social and play skills, self-help skills and motor skills.

If you are interested in having your child participate as a Play Partner, please complete the [Play Partner Questionnaire](#) by January 11, 2021 that can be found on the Newtown Public School District website under Announcements. Following submission of your questionnaire, the preschool team will contact you to invite your child to participate in a small group activity scheduled for the afternoon of Friday, January 15, 2021 with a snow date of Friday, February 12, 2021 at Sandy Hook Elementary School. A preschool staff member will email or call you prior to the play session to confirm the details of the group activity. At this time, visitors are not permitted in the school building. A virtual open house will be available for families who submit the [Play Partner Questionnaire](#).

You will receive a mailed letter by March 26, 2021 regarding your child's Play Partner status. Confirmation of Play Partner participation will be due on April 26, 2021. Play Partners are required to be three years of age on/by July 15, 2021 and be toilet trained before they are admitted to the program. You are still encouraged to complete the questionnaire if your child turns three shortly after July 15, 2021. We accept play partners throughout the year, accordingly. Children five years of age by December 31, 2020 are kindergarten eligible and will not be considered for participation as Play Partners.

Newtown Public Schools Preschool Program Details are as follows:

Program Days: Mondays through Thursdays

Program Hours: Morning sessions run from 9:00 to 11:45 (typically for 3 year olds)

Afternoon sessions run from 12:45 to 3:30 (typically for 4 year olds)

Location: Sandy Hook Elementary School, Newtown CT

2020 – 2021 Rate: \$2,400.00 for a four half day program

If you, a caregiver or an educator have any questions or concerns about your child's development in any of the aforementioned developmental domains, rather than moving your child's application forward as a Play Partner, it may be more appropriate to discuss your concerns and provide you with specific information regarding early childhood development, or consider an evaluation.

Please feel free to call Lauren Offutt, School Psychologist, at (203) 426-7683, if you have any questions.

Best Regards,

Sonia L. Raquel
Supervisor of Special Education

Tel (203) 426-7626 • Fax: (203) 270-6185