



The Children's School for Early Development provides educational, social and support services for children up to five years of age who have developmental disabilities, including but not limited to speech and language delays, intellectual disabilities, PDD/Autism and Down syndrome. These services are based upon the philosophy that families should be given **a choice of resources** to maximize their child's potential.

Established in 1949, the Children's School for Early Development is the **largest provider of community-based services** for children with developmental disabilities in Westchester County. Our early intervention services are delivered entirely in community settings, and more than 80 percent of the pre-school children whom we serve attend community schools. The Children's School was the first in Westchester County to provide **community-based pre-school programming for children who have PDD/autism**. In addition to our inclusion classes, at local nursery schools and child care centers, we provide self-contained classes at our center in Hawthorne for youngsters who require this level of intervention.

Through our **university affiliations** with Rutgers, Mercy College and The Westchester Institute for Human Development, the school's teachers, therapists and staff **receive comprehensive and ongoing training in the latest research-based educational approaches**, including verbal behavior analysis, and are leaders in their field.



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The mission of Arc of Westchester is to empower children and adults with developmental disabilities to achieve their potential based on personal choices, abilities and interests.

This is accomplished through person-centered services, support to families, advocacy and leadership, which together inspire the community to value the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities.



The Children's School for Early Development provides educational, social and support services for children, from birth to five years of age, and their families.

These services are provided based on the philosophy that children and their families should be given a choice of resources to maximize their child's potential.

40 Saw Mill River Road
Hawthorne, NY 10532
914.347.3227 • Fax 914.347.4216
www.westchesterarc.org



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Education, Social and Support Services for Children and Families

Early Intervention. Community Settings. Positive Results.

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Early Intervention (birth through 3 years of age)

Home and Community Services

- Evaluations
- Service Coordination
- Special Instruction and Speech Services
- Parent-Child Groups in Local Nursery Schools
- Parent-Child Support Group - PACDS
(Parent Assistance Committee on Down Syndrome)

Pre-School (3 to 5 years of age)

- Evaluations
- Community-Based: Special Education and Speech Therapy
- Full Inclusion Special Classes for Children with Language, Communication, Cognitive and Motor Delays
- Full Day Center-Based and Inclusion Classes for Children with PDD/Autism
- Educational Advocacy for Pre-School and School Age Families
- Family Support Groups and Parent Workshops

For more information, contact Fran Porcaro,
Director of Educational Services, 914.347.3227, fporcaro@westchesterarc.org.

Funding

The Children's School for Early Development charges no fees. The Early Intervention program is funded by New York State and Westchester County, the latter of which may seek reimbursement from your child's health insurance provider. Coverage includes early intervention services but not the cost of day care or other fees charged in community settings. Although public funds also support many of our pre-school activities, we are dependent upon the generosity of private donors to fund certain innovative and highly regarded pre-school services.

Referral Process

Early Intervention

To be evaluated for eligibility to receive early intervention services, contact Westchester County Department of Health, 914.813.5061.

If your child is found to be eligible for services by a state-approved evaluator, you will work with professional staff to develop a personalized service plan, which must be approved by the Westchester County Department of Health. An ongoing service coordinator selected by the family assists them in locating and scheduling service providers, chosen from the county list, to implement their individualized family service plan.

Pre-School

To be evaluated for eligibility for participation in our pre-school classes, contact the Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE) in your local school district.

The Children's School for Early Development is approved by New York State to provide both early intervention and pre-school services, under contract with Westchester County.



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