



Claremont Early Childhood Program provides free, half-day public preschool, for Claremont children ages 3-5. The morning program is Tuesday-Thursday from 8:30-11:15 and the afternoon program is Monday-Thursday from 12:15-3:00. Transportation is available to all children. Preschool uses the Creative Curriculum, which is aligned with the New Hampshire Early Learning Standards for preschool and the Pyramid Model Framework, a multi-tiered system of support for children's social-emotional development.

Family and community involvement are essential components of preschool. Families have access to a weekly playgroup, monthly special events in-class, and ongoing communication via Class Dojo, phone and email, annual family and teacher conferences, in-school dental services provided by Sullivan County Dental Initiative, and Positive Solutions for Families training. Preschool's community ties include promoting Fiske Free Library's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, afternoon gym Mondays at the Community Center, Monday morning playgroups with Pathways for families and children birth-3, Friday morning playgroups for families and children 3-5, and Child Find. Preschool's monthly newsletter is posted on the City's website.



The impact of Claremont Early Childhood Program on kindergarten readiness is significant. Preschool is provided to a maximum of 72 children on site, including up to 36 children with IEPs. Based on current kindergarten enrollment, approximately 23% of the children now enrolled in kindergarten attended Claremont Early Childhood Program last year. Preschool offers the ideal entry to public school with 12 children per classroom, teachers who are certified in early childhood and special education, highly trained paraprofessionals and therapists who provide support services in the classroom for all children.

A 2019 RAND study, *Advancing Investments in the Early Years: Opportunities for Strategic Investments in Evidence-based Early Childhood Programs in New Hampshire*, identified Claremont as a community that was making advances in early childhood services based on statewide data. Claremont Early Childhood Program was interviewed as part of the study and provided examples of utilizing innovative approaches and local philanthropy support to meet the needs of children and families. <http://www.endowmentforhealth.org/what-we-fund/ensuring-the-healthy-development-of-young-children/NH-Early-Investing-in-the-Early-Years>

