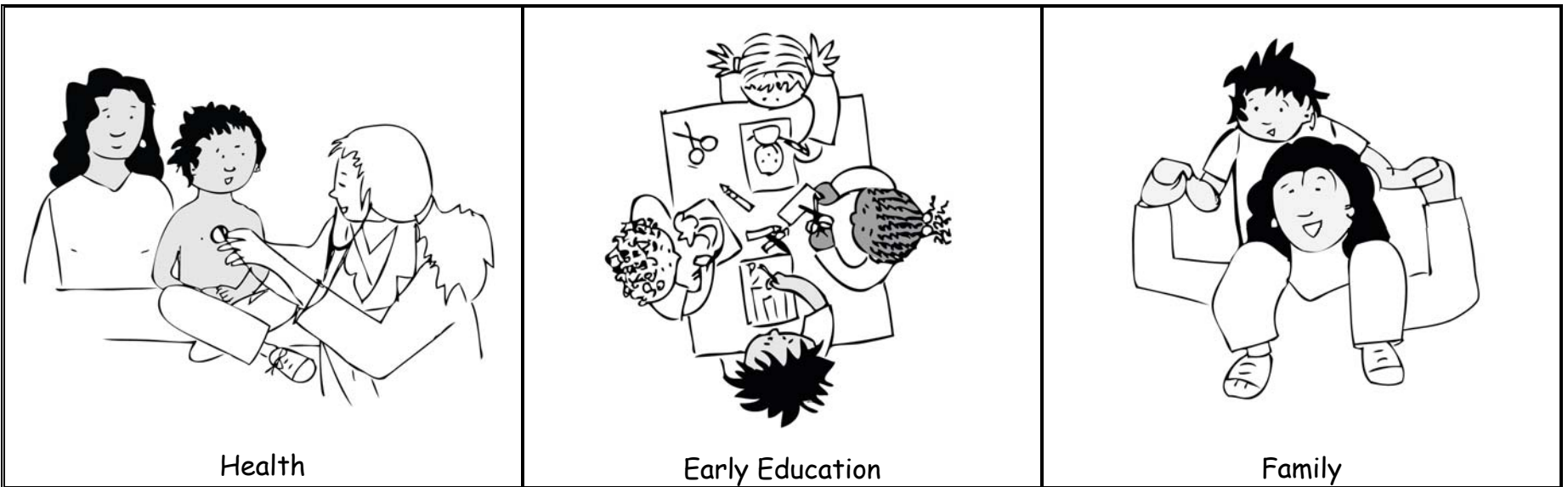


How Norwalk's Young Children Will Succeed 2007-2010 Early Childhood Action Plan



Coordinated by:
Norwalk Healthy Families Collaborative
Norwalk Kids Start Smart
Norwalk School Readiness Council

January 2007

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Vision

Norwalk children birth to age 8
are healthy, ready to learn and succeed
in school and life.



Illustrations:

Leah A. Nelson
Norwalk Children's Foundation

Supporters

*As of January 2007, over 25 organizations formally endorsed
Norwalk's Early Childhood Action Plan.*

Board of Education, Norwalk Public Schools
City of Norwalk, Mayor's Office
City of Norwalk, Department of Youth Services
City of Norwalk, Health Department
Cornerstone Community Development Corporation
Fairfield County Community Foundation
Family and Children's Agency (FCA)
Fox Run Family Resource Center
Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
The Human Services Council
Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance Center, Inc.
Norwalk ACTS for Children
Norwalk Children's Foundation
Norwalk Coalition of Urban Youth Initiatives
Norwalk Community College
Norwalk Community Health Center
Norwalk Economic Opportunity Now (NEON)
Norwalk Federation of Teachers – AFL-CIO
Norwalk Healthy Families Collaborative
Norwalk Hospital
Norwalk Housing Authority
Norwalk Kids Start Smart
Norwalk PLTI (Parent Leadership Training Institute) Alumni
Norwalk PTO Council
Norwalk School Readiness Council
Norwalk Smiles Dental Center
Parent Advocacy Group, Norwalk Kids Start Smart
United Way of Norwalk & Wilton

(Contact Norwalk Public Schools for a complete updated list)

Mayor, City of Norwalk

Superintendent of Schools

Introduction

"A child's development in the first five years is key to a child's future success, but not all Norwalk children and their families get the support and services they need so all our children start school ready to learn, grow and succeed." (*Norwalk's Young Children: How Well Are We Helping Them To Succeed*, p. 2)

An August 2006 report --*Norwalk's Young Children: How Well Are We Helping Them To Succeed* – provided an update to a May 2003 report on the state of Norwalk's young children and challenged our community to address the most pressing issues affecting our young children and their families.

The Norwalk Healthy Families Collaborative, Norwalk Kids Start Smart, and the Norwalk School Readiness Council, among others, have been addressing the needs of young children and their families for years. Over the past year, these three collaboratives began meeting and working together on a regular basis as a "joint collaborative." The combined group agreed to update the community report on early childhood issues in Norwalk.

State leaders such as Dr. Janice Gruendel, the Governor's Senior Advisor on Early Childhood and Elizabeth Brown from the Connecticut Commission on Children joined the group in some of the work sessions, providing important input and helping the

group to understand how Norwalk's efforts fit with the early childhood policy and planning efforts in Connecticut.

In the process of preparing the August 2006 report and learning more about State efforts, the participants came to realize that after years of study and community input, Norwalk was ready to put forward a comprehensive early childhood action plan.

The early childhood "joint collaborative" appointed a four-person writing team to produce the Action Plan, based on the 10 priorities established in the August 2006 report. The writing team consulted with major stakeholders throughout the process and provided multiple opportunities for feedback.

Mark Nickel, Jim Farnam and Matthew Storeygard from Holt, Wexler and Farnam provided the team with critical technical assistance throughout the process and led the Fiscal Scan Analysis found in the Appendix. Their support has been greatly appreciated and essential to the quality and timeliness of the plan.

Richard Costello, President of MagicEcho and former manager of corporate marketing communications for GE, provided technical assistance and guidance on framing the section on "An Information-Rich Community". His experience and

perspective on marketing and strategic planning were an invaluable contribution.

The Action Plan provides a sufficiently detailed framework so that Norwalk's work for the next three years can begin in earnest – in fact, it already has.

This plan will help mobilize the commitment and goodwill that exists in the community to provide all our young children ages birth to 8, the start they need and deserve to succeed. A role exists for everyone – local and state government, the school system, preschools, higher education, health care providers, families, business, social service agencies, the religious community, private philanthropy, and many others. *All are needed in making this plan a reality.*

Prepared in collaboration with the Norwalk community by:

Early Childhood Action Plan Writing Team:

- Mary Budrawich, *Early Childhood Instructional Specialist, Norwalk Public Schools*
- Larry Cross, *Executive Director, Norwalk Community Health Center*
- Mary Peniston, *Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Norwalk Public Schools*
- Victoria Schilling, *Coordinator, Norwalk Healthy Families Collaborative*

Norwalk's 2007-2010 Early Childhood Action Plan



Plan Overview – How to read the plan

The 2007-2010 Early Childhood Action Plan for Norwalk has been developed in response to the 10 challenges highlighted in the August 2006 Report *Norwalk's Young Children: How Well Are We Helping Them To Succeed*. This Action Plan establishes priorities among those challenges and identifies action steps and results that Norwalk can achieve in the next three years.

The Early Childhood Action Plan focuses on three areas:

- (1) *Early Childhood Care and Education*
- (2) *Early Childhood Health*
- (3) *An Information-Rich Community for Families*

A separate section describes each area of focus. The section starts with a clearly stated goal, followed by a “Big Picture” summary, and then “Plan Details” which include the following information:

- *Challenges we want to address*
- *What we want the situation to be*
- *Changes we want to see in 3 years*
- *How we will get there*
- *What's needed to make it happen*

Each goal highlights strategies that target our most vulnerable populations. Particular attention has been paid to those at or below 185% of the federal poverty level.

The Action Plan also includes strategies that are broad and will directly benefit all young children in Norwalk and their families.

Goal 1 – Early Childhood Care and Education
All Norwalk children can go to a high quality preschool.

Goal 2 – Early Childhood Health
All Norwalk children have healthy bodies, healthy teeth and healthy minds.

Goal 3 – An Information-Rich Community for Families
Parents get the information they need to support their children.

The plan includes other critical sections:

- **A Data Monitoring & Tracking System** – so that the impact of the community's work can be assessed and the progress of Norwalk's children can be tracked
- **A Management Plan** for the overall plan – so that leadership roles and accountability are adequately defined to start implementation immediately and assure sustained commitment
- **Expected Next Steps** after the first 3 years – so that a vision is provided of how the other challenges raised in the August 2006 report can be addressed in the subsequent years.

The Appendix includes information for a deeper understanding on related issues:

- Timeline for Development and Start-up of Plan
- Membership of Joint Collaborative
- Summary of Financial Resources needed to implement plan
- Norwalk Fiscal Scan of early childhood funding summarizing federal, state, local and private sources that are invested in Norwalk to benefit children ages birth to 8
- Results Based Accountability (RBA) Sample
- Map of Target Populations showing areas of greatest need
- Summary of Possible Community Messages that need to become pervasive
- List of Acronyms

Goal 1: EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION – All Norwalk children can go to a high quality preschool.

**The
BIG
Picture**

TODAY: As many as 800 3- and 4-year old children in Norwalk may not have access to a licensed early care and education opportunity.

By 2010: Every 3- and 4-year old child in Norwalk will have the option of attending a preschool that will prepare them for Kindergarten.



What does a child do at home?



A preschool might be just the thing.



There are many welcoming centers.



Your child can be with other children.



Your child learns and shares new things with you.



A high quality preschool helps you and your child get a good start for school.

PLAN DETAILS

Goal 1: Early Childhood Care and Education – CAPACITY

Challenges we want to address

24-48% of children **lack critical skills** for success as identified through Norwalk’s Kindergarten screening.

2006 Kindergarten Screening

15% of Norwalk children entering Kindergarten report **no formal preschool experience**.

CT State Dept of Education Strategic School Profiles

What we want the situation to be

Every family in Norwalk has access to affordable, quality preschool for their 3- and 4-year old children.

Changes we want to see in 3 years

- 200 more 3 & 4 year old children are attending a (quality) preschool
- 98% of children report a formal preschool experience
- Upon Kindergarten entry, screening shows more children are better prepared

How we will get there

Grow Early Care and Education CAPACITY

- Increase the number of School Readiness (SR) slots in Norwalk by a total of 200 over 3 years with additional support from the State Department of Education (SDE):
 - 07-08: 40 new SR slots
 - 08-09: 60 new SR slots
 - 09-10: 100 new SR slots
- Fund 20 preschool “scholarships” locally:
 - 07-08 & 08-09: Raise private grant monies which the Norwalk School Readiness Council (SRC) will allocate for 20 additional slots at programs that are raising quality and/or are becoming eligible for SR funding
 - Build a local endowment fund to generate 20 scholarships (\$170,000) on an ongoing basis to supplement SR slots
- Track capacity for infants and toddlers

Transition to Kindergarten

- Continue “Brighter Futures” Summer Transition program for children without a formal pre-K experience or for those learning English

Strengthen & Expand Management Capacity

- 07-08: Hire part-time consultant to strengthen and expand SR monitoring and administration and start to build data system
- 08-10: Create full-time SR management position to replace consultant

Facilities

- 07-09: Norwalk can increase its capacity to serve 3- & 4-year olds in existing facilities (with some modifications and/or start-up costs)
- 09-10: New and/or expanded facilities needed

What’s needed to make it happen

Funding required for NEW SR slots:

07-08: \$325,000

08-09: new \$485,000
total of \$810,000

09-10: new \$ 825,000
total of \$1,650,000

Ongoing Annual Amount
\$1,650,000

Local funding for slots

07-08: \$170,000
in local grant funds

08-09: \$170,000
in local grant funds

07-10: \$3.5 million
new local endowment
generates \$170,000/yr

Brighter Futures

\$200,000/yr for 120 kids

Management

State Funding
Additional \$10,000/yr for monitoring as currently proposed by SDE

Local Funding
07-08 \$10,000 for consultant

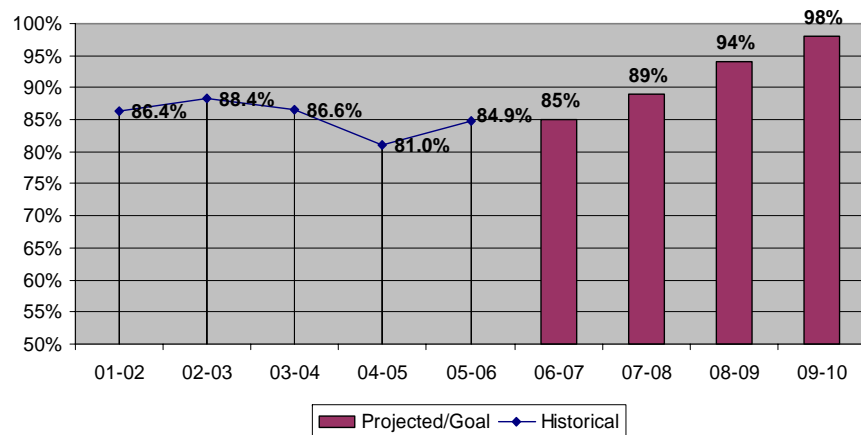
\$80,000 + benefits for new City position 08-10

Facilities

TBD

% Entering K Students Reporting some Pre-School Experience

Source: Strategic School Profiles, CT State Department of Education



Goal 1: EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION – All Norwalk children can go to a HIGH QUALITY preschool.

**The
BIG
Picture**

TODAY: 24-48% of children lack critical skills for success, despite the fact that many of the children have had a formal preschool experience.

By 2010: 95% of Kindergarten children will demonstrate the full range of skills necessary for Kindergarten success.



During circle time children learn with their teacher and others.



Children play with blocks and learn about shapes and numbers.



Projects with paper, scissors and crayons help develop small hands.



Play outside everyday keeps children healthy and alert.



Read, read, read - everyday!



Creative play builds imagination.

PLAN DETAILS		Goal 1: Early Childhood Care and Education – QUALITY	
<p>Challenges we want to address</p> <p>24-48% of children entering Kindergarten are perceived by their Kindergarten teacher as lacking essential early skills for success. Norwalk Kindergarten Screening Results</p> <p>Currently, only 9 of 29 licensed early care and education centers in Norwalk are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). August 2006 Community Report</p> <p>For those programs not yet accredited by NAEYC, no process exists for determining the quality of the program or the readiness of the children who have attended the program. Norwalk Public Schools</p>	<p>Changes we want to see in 3 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% increase in the total number of NAEYC accredited preschool centers (total of 14) • Increase in the number of centers serving children with School Readiness subsidies • Early screening in Kindergarten shows more children are better prepared 	<p>How we will get there</p> <p><u>Provide Ongoing Professional Development (PD) and Support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide training and technical assistance for program improvement based on required NAEYC criteria • Provide technical assistance to programs seeking NAEYC accreditation • Continue and further collaborations with Norwalk Community College in providing professional development, including expansion of model lab <p><u>Expand Local Use of ECERS</u> (Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annually evaluate 10 classrooms pre and post • Provide follow-up technical assistance to implement program improvements • Encourage participating programs to pursue NAEYC accreditation <p><u>Create and Implement Local Voluntary Quality Rating System (QRS) for ECE Programs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify criteria & mechanisms for QRS • Promote participation community wide • Create awareness among families (see Goal 3) <p><u>Strengthen and Expand Data System to Monitor Quality and Child Outcomes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See action steps under increasing CAPACITY. Consultant and then full-time SR management will also support activities to address improving QUALITY 	<p>What's needed to make it happen</p> <p><u>PD, Support, ECERS</u></p> <p><i>Existing Resources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$62,500 annually in DSS Quality Enhancement monies • Accreditation Facilitation Project <p><i>New Resources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of NCC model lab school (SDE grant funding recently awarded) • \$15,000 over 3 years to subsidize cost of NAEYC accreditation • \$20,000 private funding for ECERS <p><u>QRS Resources</u></p> <p>\$15,000 for consultant</p> <p><u>Data & Assessment</u></p> <p>See funding described in CAPACITY section</p>
<p>What we want the situation to be</p> <p>Every family in Norwalk has access to affordable, quality preschool for their 3- and 4-year old children.</p> <p>Families are able to rely on a public indicator of quality to choose the appropriate program for their child.</p>			
<p>"The quality, effectiveness and cultural competence of early childhood experiences are key to assuring children's preparation for success in the first years of schooling."</p> <p><i>Ready by Five and Fine by Nine: CT's Early Childhood Investment Framework, p. 20</i></p>			

Goal 2: EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH - All Norwalk children have healthy bodies, healthy teeth and healthy minds.

**The
BIG
Picture**

TODAY: Too many Norwalk children are obese, suffer from dental decay and have behavioral or development problems that seriously hurt overall health and wellbeing.

By 2010: 95% of children in Norwalk ages birth to 8 will have their own pediatrician, regular dental care, and be appropriately screened for behavioral/developmental health issues.



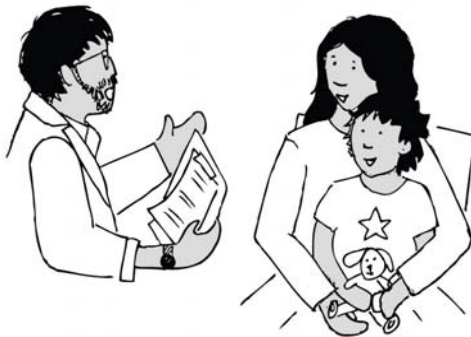
Find a pediatrician for your child.



Take your child to all the check-ups your doctor recommends.



Make sure your child has his immunizations up to date and complete.



Worried how your child is behaving?
Your doctor can get you special help.



Regular dental care is important, too!



A healthy child is a happy child!

PLAN DETAILS		Goal 2: Early Childhood Health	
<p>Challenges we want to address</p> <p>Children who don't have their own doctors miss opportunities for early diagnosis and intervention. In 2006, the Norwalk Hospital Emergency Department provided 5,300 visits to children birth to 8. Up to 20% of those visits could have been avoided if children had their own pediatrician. Norwalk Hospital</p> <p>Research indicates that 12-20% of children ages birth to 8 have behavioral health disorders. This would mean that approximately 1,300 children ages birth to 8 in Norwalk may be at risk for behavioral health issues. Child Health & Development Institute (CHDI)</p> <p>50% of children screened at NEON HeadStart in April 2005 were diagnosed with dental decay - far exceeding the national average of 21%. Norwalk Smiles</p> <p>Obesity of Kindergarten students is increasing. In 1997, 11% of K students (91) were overweight and in 2005, 13.2% (123). By the time K students reach 6th grade, the % of overweight students doubles. Norwalk Public Schools/Norwalk Health Dept</p>	<p>Changes we want to see in 3 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95% children ages birth to 8 have their <u>own</u> pediatrician Behavioral health screening is a regular part of pediatric health care practice Health care providers refer young patients (ages birth to 8) and their families to services as needed All children have a dental screening before Kindergarten A decrease in obesity of Kindergarten students 	<p>How we will get there</p> <p><u>More Children Have Their Own Doctor</u> Norwalk's August 2006 report prioritized increasing the number of pediatricians who accept HUSKY. Since then, 3 additional full time pediatricians have been hired at the Norwalk Community Health Center (NCHC) so that 30-35% additional children ages birth to 8 (est. 750) can be served. Collaborations with the Norwalk Hospital Emergency Dept, AmeriCares, the Norwalk Health Dept., as well as with schools and preschools, will be explored to increase the number of children that have their own doctor (vs. episodic care).</p> <p><u>Behavioral Health Care</u> In 07-08, NCHC will pilot a "family medical care" model. The model includes behavioral screenings at regular well child visits with on-site Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance Center behavioral health assessment, family centered short-term treatment and referrals, as needed, for long term treatment. Expected to diagnose 350 new cases the first year and 75/yr thereafter. Some of these children will need additional support services. A pediatric case manager will work closely with the behavioral health clinician to provide referrals, follow-up and track outcomes for children and families served. All Norwalk pediatric providers will be trained in behavioral screening and developmental surveillance by <i>Help Me Grow</i>. A pediatric practice outreach coordinator will do follow-up.</p> <p><u>Dental Health Care</u> <i>Norwalk Smiles</i> will open a FQHC dental clinic in South Norwalk (Spring 2007). A permanent chair will be established at Ben Franklin and a mobile chair at Nathaniel Ely for Head Start and other preschoolers. Need for dental care and numbers served will be tracked for future planning.</p> <p><u>Obesity</u> The Norwalk Childhood Obesity Prevention Committee will continue to work with school and preschool personnel and educate children and families to reduce childhood obesity.</p>	<p>What's needed to make it happen</p> <p><u>Kids' Own Doctor:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing support of NCHC from Norwalk Hospital Systemic funding for NCHC to sustain its pediatric practices accepting HUSKY & uninsured <p><u>Behavioral Health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support to integrate behavioral health (\$200,000 from CT Health Foundation; \$30,000 pending) <i>Help Me Grow</i> free training for doctors Pediatric case manager \$63,000/yr funded by Norwalk Children's Foundation 06-07 Pediatric Practice Outreach Coordinator \$75,000/yr + benefits DSS reimbursements to sustain program \$375,000/yr. estimate for additional services <p><u>Dental Health Care</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$50,000/yr. for pediatric dentist <p><u>Obesity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Dept Staff \$45,000/yr. + benefits
<p>What we want the situation to be</p> <p>Norwalk families enjoy universal access to family-based health services that support healthy child development.</p>			

Goal 3: AN INFORMATION-RICH COMMUNITY— Parents get the information they need to support their children.

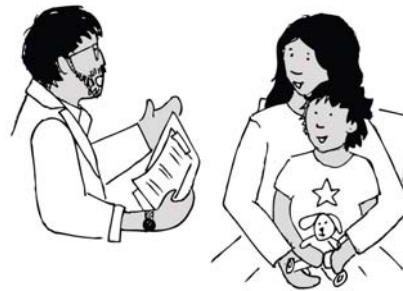
**The
BIG
Picture**

TODAY: Many families of young children don't know how they can best nurture a healthy child, prepare their child for school and find services that a child may need to get a good start.

By 2010: All families have easy access to the information they need and most know what to do so their children are healthy and ready to learn, grow and succeed.



Information for families needs to be available in many places.



Doctors and health care professionals can help answer parents' questions.



Parents often get information from other parents.



Play groups are a place to share and learn how to support your child.



Questions about child development or Norwalk resources? Try the Internet.



Parent circles are a way to learn and solve problems together.

PLAN DETAILS

Goal 3: An Information-Rich Community for Families

Challenges we want to address

There are many sources of information on child development and services for young children and their families in Norwalk, but many families are unaware of how to find the information they need.

Norwalk Kids Start Smart

Research indicates that the majority of parents, including all economic groups and cultures, find parenting challenging and are open to additional parenting support. Many circumstances such as age, geographic isolation, level of education, limited family or community support and low income may place an additional burden on families. This has been shown to affect parents' confidence, parenting skills and ability to support their child's optimal health and development.

Nova Scotia's Early Childhood Development Initiative and Multilateral Framework on Early Learning

What we want the situation to be

Every family in Norwalk knows the fundamentals for raising a healthy, school ready child, including how to access available resources.

Changes we want to see in 3 years

- Families of young children indicate they know where to find the information they need to support the healthy development of their child and the child's preparation for elementary school
- At least 80% of low-income parents know the basics of how to develop a healthy, school ready child
- Demand for low cost/free health care and pre-school services increases among low income families in Norwalk

How we will get there

Make Information Easily Accessible for All

- Identify and consistently promote high quality, well established information sources including: *211 (Infoline), Born Learning, Norwalk Public Schools Kindergarten Transition information*
- Provide families access to information on local family services, community events, parenting and child development, through: *Traditional media, libraries, Parent Outreach Workers Network, parent networks, Norwalk Kids Start Smart website, workshops, FRC activities*

Target Low-income Families

Background Research: The population of poor children (**at or below 185% of the federal poverty rate**) **ages birth to 5** is approximately 2,000 and is highly concentrated geographically (see map in appendix). 50% live in only 11 of the 71 census blocks in Norwalk, and 80% live in 23 census blocks. English is not spoken in 35% of households in these 23 census blocks and mothers head 35% of families. Given the relatively small, geographically concentrated population, mass media techniques are inefficient.

Strategy to be developed: A **marketing campaign** that builds many small "Parent Circles" to educate, inform and motivate parents; will build on proven programs and community networks.

- Determine priority messages
- Work with (social) marketing consultant to create facilitator training and materials
- Recruit & train neighborhood parents as facilitators (parent leadership)
- Start first year with 10 **Parent Circles**; build 40 circles by 2010.
- Evaluate annually

What's needed to make it happen

Easily Accessible Info

- \$20,000/year for print materials
- Regular in-kind contributions of media time/space
- Maintain and further develop family outreach networks
- \$20,000/yr workshops & FRC activities

Target Low-income Families

- In-kind services of local marketing consultant
- Consultant(s) to develop facilitator training & evaluate program: \$25,000
- Recruitment and training of facilitators: \$5,000
- Annual Stipends for facilitators: \$20,000
- Food & materials: \$10,000

2007:	\$60,000
2008:	\$95,000
2009:	\$115,000

Tracking Results - How we'll measure our progress

Norwalk has already made important progress in gathering and tracking data on how our young children are doing. In May 2003 and again in August 2006, community "report cards" were published and widely distributed.

However, Norwalk needs an **integrated data system** that at any given time provides information such as:

- Number of children ages birth to eight
- Pregnancy and birth trends
- Childhood obesity trends
- Number of children receiving publicly subsidized health care and the kinds of services they are receiving, including well child care visits, behavioral health screenings and follow up services, and dental health services
- Supply/availability of early childhood care and education for 3- and 4-year olds and for infants and toddlers
- Quality of existing early care and education
- Affordability of existing early care and education, including tracking of number of publicly subsidized slots
- Preparation of children entering Kindergarten (Kindergarten assessments and exiting preschool portfolios)
- Tracking of academic performance of children through grade 3 (CMTs and other standardized tests)

Eventually, the system should be developed to track individual children as well as age cohorts. Norwalk Public Schools will provide technical support to develop and house some of those databases. Over the next three years, the progress towards the goals and strategies of this Action Plan need to be tracked as part of the data system.

The Data System and tracking of the Early Childhood Action Plan will be coordinated by an **interdisciplinary Data Team** that will include:

- The School Readiness Council Data/Monitoring Coordinator
- The Norwalk Community Health Center Pediatric Case Manager
- A Representative from the Norwalk Health Department
- A Representative from Norwalk Public Schools

The Data Team will be responsible for coordinating an annual progress report on the Early Childhood Action Plan and the state of Norwalk's Young Children.

The work of the data team will be coordinated by the newly created position of the School Readiness Council Data/Monitoring Coordinator. An important part of that work will be to develop a vibrant network of local and state experts who can provide the information necessary to maintain an updated integrated data system.



"I am so proud of you and how much you are learning!"

Management Plan - How we'll implement the Plan

Many of the organizations supporting this plan have been working for many years on the issues highlighted in this plan. All recognize that to move forward, we must better coordinate efforts and resources so that the Action Plan can be successfully implemented. In short, Norwalk needs a single structure to bring together all the parties committed to this plan.

In seeking an appropriate solution, several criteria were taken into consideration to identify and define this formal coordinating body:

- Stability
- Sustainability
- Avoiding duplication
- Promoting effective coordination of resources
- Agility to act

Norwalk's "Early Childhood Council", as illustrated on the following page, will assume responsibility for the implementation of Norwalk Early Childhood Action Plan. It builds on the strength of Norwalk's School Readiness Council, the Norwalk Healthy Families Collaborative and Norwalk Kids Start Smart.

A redefined and expanded School Readiness Council – that is, the "Early Childhood Council" – provides a legislated and well established organization, overseen and supported by the Mayor and the Superintendent, with a regular income stream to support its annual budget.

In fact, the State is recommending that local School Readiness Councils expand to assume broader oversight of early childhood issues, and it is a model that is being implemented in other communities across the state.

The Norwalk Healthy Families Collaborative will oversee the health issues in this plan and will serve as a formal working group within the newly structured Early Childhood Council.

Similarly, Norwalk Kids Start Smart will coordinate the parent engagement and information work and serve as the formal working group for these issues.

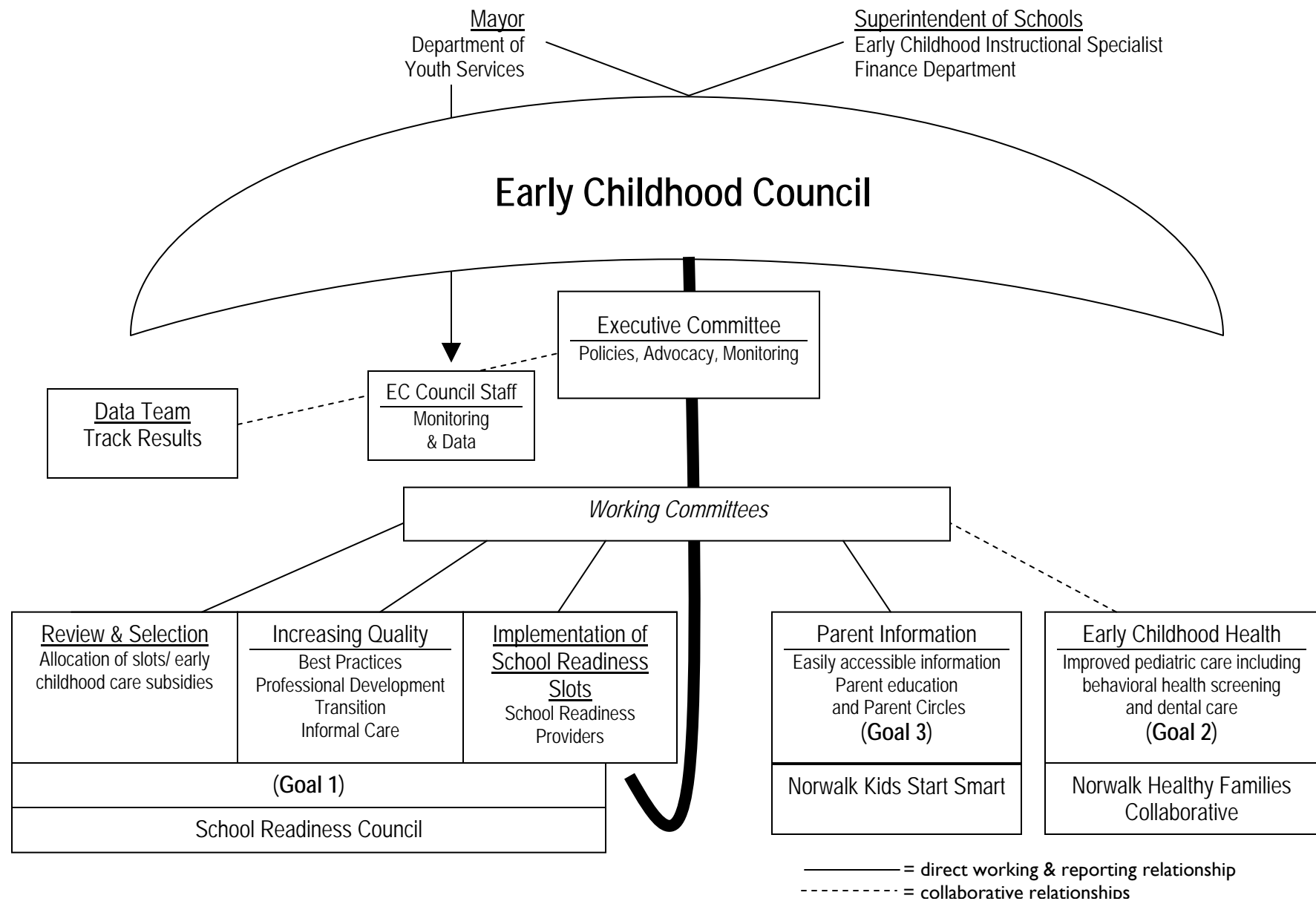
The Early Childhood Council will build upon the existing paid staff of the School Readiness Council (managed by Norwalk's Department of Youth Services). This Action Plan includes the creation of another full time City position to support the expanded work which will continue to be supported by the Early Childhood Specialist in Norwalk Public Schools.

In addition, the Data System and tracking of the Early Childhood Action Plan will be coordinated by an interdisciplinary Data Team. The new Early Childhood Council staff will coordinate that team.

The practice of meeting every other month to discuss a single policy or community issue will continue under the auspices of the Early Childhood Council. These meetings, as in the past, will be open to all interested persons.

A transition to this new structure will be necessary over the first months of the plan and will include monthly discussions among the early childhood collaboratives to define and refine the details of the new structure and how work will get done.

Management Plan - How we'll implement the Plan



And with success, what next?

The 2007-2010 Early Childhood Action Plan clearly defines a few ambitious, but achievable action steps that will result in significant, measurable improvements for Norwalk's young children if the investments needed are made and strategies are fully implemented. However, as pointed out in Norwalk's August 2006 report, there are other challenges that still remain to be addressed. (see *Norwalk's Young Children: How Well Are We Helping Them to Succeed?*, p. 24)

Throughout the implementation of the 2007-2010 plan, the expanded School Readiness Council/Early Childhood Council needs to strategize how those challenges not addressed in the 2007-2010 action plan can be tackled in the following years. Key among those challenges are how to:

- Assure sustainability of proven programs that have improved birth outcomes, especially among high risk populations and continue to monitor pregnancy and birth trends
- Expand the number of licensed spaces for early care and education for infants and toddlers
- Secure sustainable funding streams to provide more subsidies for quality early care and education so that ALL Norwalk children have affordable opportunities to attend a high quality preschool
- Continue to improve the quality of existing early care and education by increasing credentials and salaries of staff and by using data to monitor the progress of children from preschool to elementary school
- Provide all young children in Norwalk with high quality experiences to develop strong language and pre-literacy skills. Once in elementary school, provide additional supports – both during and afterschool – so that all children master the skills they need to succeed in school
- Continue to grow Norwalk as an information-rich community for families



Look, Mama! See what I can do!

Additional Information and Resources

- Timeline for Development and Start-up of Plan
- Membership of Joint Collaborative
- Summary of Financial Resources Required to Implement Plan
- Norwalk Fiscal Scan of Early Childhood Funding
- Results Based Accountability (RBA) Sample
- Map of Target Populations
- Summary of Possible Community Messages
- List of Acronyms



TIMELINE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND START-UP OF PLAN

- Fall 2005**
- Early Childhood Joint Collaborative is formed by Norwalk School Readiness Council, Norwalk Kids Start Smart and Norwalk Healthy Families Collaborative
- January 2006**
- Discussion of early childhood report begins
- April 2006**
- Dr. Janice Gruendel attends Joint Collaborative Meeting to discuss early draft of Community Report and provide information on work at state level on early childhood planning
- June 2006**
- Elizabeth Brown, Connecticut Commission on Children, attends Joint Collaborative Meeting and participates in discussion of final draft of Community Report
- August 2006**
- Community Report, *Norwalk's Young Children: How Well Are We Helping Them To Succeed* published and widely disseminated
 - Writing Team selected to prepare Community Early Childhood Action Plan
- September 2006**
- Writing Team begins work with Mark Nickel from Holt, Wexler and Farnam
- October 2006**
- Richard Costello begins working with Writing Team on *Information-Rich Community Goal* (Social Marketing)
 - Outline of report shared with different groups for feedback
- November 2006**
- Members of the Action Plan Writing Team meet with Senator Bob Duff and Elizabeth Brown to discuss Results Based Accountability framework for Norwalk's Early Childhood Action Plan
- December 2006**
- Draft of Action Plan presented to Mayor and Superintendent of Schools
 - Drafts shared with community stakeholders
 - Joint Collaborative meets to review and approve final draft
-
- January 2007**
- Plan published and begin distribution
 - Promote with key leaders including local and state legislators
- February 2007**
- Work begins on Management Structure to transition to a "Norwalk Early Childhood Council"
 - Work with consultant to further develop Goal 3 Strategy
 - Work of Goal 1 and Goal 2 in progress
- April 2007**
- "Norwalk Early Childhood Council" further develops plan implementation and management plan
- June 2007**
- "Norwalk Early Childhood Council" further develops plan implementation and finalizes details of management plan
- July 2007**
- Launch "Norwalk Early Childhood Council"

MEMBERSHIP OF JOINT COLLABORATIVE

Norwalk Healthy Families Collaborative

Victoria Schilling, Coordinator
Americares Clinic: Barbara McCabe, Director
Anthem - Mary Ann Soboleski & Willie Hill,
Community Relations
Birth to Three - The Rubino Center: Barbara
Fitzpatrick, Executive Director
Catholic Family Services:
Michael Tintrup, Executive Director
Community Health Network of Connecticut:
Dara Goodman & Adrienne Champlain, Field
Representatives
CT Department of Social Services
Child Guidance of Mid-Fairfield County:
Stuart Greenbaum, Executive Director
Children's Connection Greater Norwalk System
of Care, Human Services Council:
Caroline Fuller, Care Coordinator
Children's Trust Fund/Help Me Grow:
Laura Baird, Community Liaison
Fairfield County Community Foundation:
Yolanda Caldera-Durant, Program Officer
Family & Children's Agency, Inc.: Rob Cashel,
Executive Director and Tiffany McCarthy,
Director of Maternal/Child Programs
Fox Run Family Resource Center:
Lynn Sadlon, Coordinator
Health Net: Valerie Lane, Community Relations
2-1-1 Infoline:
Eileen Lopez-Cordone, SW Region Director
Naramake Family Resource Center:
Wendy Gerbier
NEON Headstart & Child Development:
Rose Marie McKenzie, Director
Norwalk ACTS: Sally Grose, Parent Task Force
Norwalk Community Health Center:
Lawrence Cross, Executive Director
Norwalk Children's Foundation:
Anthony Allison, Program Officer

Norwalk Department of Health:
Christine Dudek, MCH Nurse and Pam Bates,
Immunization Action Plan Coordinator
Norwalk Hospital: Jeryl Topalian, Director of
Women's & Children's Services
Norwalk Kids Start Smart; Aida Frese, Coordinator;
George Hensinger, Parent Engagement Team
Norwalk Public Library: Sherelle Harris, Children's
Librarian, South Norwalk Branch
Norwalk Public Schools: Mary Budrawich, Early
Childhood Specialist; Mary Peniston, Executive
Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools;
Beatrice Krawiecki, Preschool Services
Norwalk School Readiness Council:
Betsy Bain, Chair
Norwalk Smiles Dental Clinic:
Adele Gordon, Director
Planned Parenthood Health Center: Clinic Director
Side By Side Community School:
Marlene Reilly, Social Services
School-Based Health Centers, Human Services
Council: Carla Gisolfi, Director
United Way of Norwalk & Wilton; David Kennedy,
President & CEO and Cathy Decesare, Director
of Community Impact
WellCare - Preferred One

Norwalk Kids Start Smart – Coordinating Team

Betsy Bain, Co-Chair
Mary Peniston, Co-Chair
Sonja Ahuja, Graustein Liaison
Mary Budrawich, Norwalk Public Schools
Cathy DeCesare, United Way of Norwalk & Wilton
Aida Frese, KSS Coordinator
Sally Grose, Norwalk Children's Foundation
George Hensinger, PLTI Alumni
David Kennedy, United Way of Norwalk & Wilton
Victoria Schilling, Norwalk Healthy Families Collab.
Linda Willock, Dept of Youth Services

Norwalk School Readiness Council

Betsy Bain, Chair
Community Representative, Dona Ditrio
Community Representative,
Donna Rogers-Jones
Department of Social Services, Patricia Balaban
Family & Children's Agency, Marilyn Lewis
Five Mile River Nursery, Lauriston Avery
Fox Run Family Resource Center,
Lynn Sadlon-Moritz
Human Services Council, School-Based Health
Centers, Elaine Andersen and Carla Gisolfi
Infoline, Shari Konn-Andrade
Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance, Devon Rayment
N.E.O.N. Head Start, Rose Marie McKenzie
Norwalk Community College,
Margaret Dana-Conway
Norwalk Community Health Center,
Migdalia Garcia
Norwalk Health Department,
Christine Dudek-Ratushnik
Norwalk Healthy Families Collaborative,
Victoria Schilling
Norwalk Housing Authority, Curtis Law
Norwalk Public Library, Sherelle Harris
Norwalk Public Schools, Mary Budrawich
Norwalk Public Schools, Beatrice Krawiecki
Norwalk Public Schools, Mary Peniston
Norwalk United Methodist Church,
Janet Hodge
Norwalk Youth Services, Linda Willock
Parent Representative, Marie-Ange Nicolas
Parent, Jeanne Taylor Hard
Parent, Paula Trujillo
Side By Side Community School, Marlene Reilly
Stepping Stones Museum, Susan Bonk
The Marvin Children's Center, Gerri Degnan

Summary of New Financial Resources Required to Implement the Early Childhood Plan

	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	Annual Ongoing
<u>GOAL I: Early Childhood Care and Education</u>				
<u>New School Readiness slots (200)</u> (in addition to \$2.2 m in current SR funding for Norwalk for approximately 300 slots) 40 in 2007-2008; 60 additional in 2008-2009; 100 additional in 2009-2010 = 200 total	40 new: 325,000	60 new: 485,000 For a total of 100 810,000	100 new 825,000 For a total of 200 1,650,000	\$1,650,000
<u>Local Funding for slots</u> Local grant funds..... \$3.5 million local endowment to generate \$170,000/yr.....	170,000 1,200,000	170,000 2,300,000	Local funds generated from endowment	Local funds generated from endowment
<u>Brighter Futures</u> \$200,000/yr. for 120 children without pre-K experience or English Language Learners; after year 3, may involve 80-100 children.	200,000	200,000	200,000	150,000
<u>Expanded School Readiness Management Capacity, Data & Assessment</u> <i>State Funding</i> \$10,000/yr for additional monitoring, as currently proposed by State Dept of Education <i>Local Funding</i> \$10,000/yr. in local funds to enhance School Readiness monitoring \$80,000 + benefits for new City position	10,000 10,000	10,000 10,000 80,000 + benefits	10,000 10,000 80,000 + benefits	10,000 10,000 80,000 + benefits
<u>Facilities</u> To Be Determined (TBD) starting in 2009-2010			State Funding to be determined	
<u>Professional Development, Support, ECERS</u> <i>Existing Resources</i> o \$62,500 annually in DSS Quality Enhancement monies o Accreditation Facilitation Project <i>New Resources</i> o [Expansion of NCC model lab school (SDE grant funding recently awarded)] o \$15,000 over 3 years to subsidize cost of NAEYC accreditation o \$20,000 for ECERS from increase in DSS Quality Enhancement	5,000 20,000	5,000 20,000	5,000 20,000	20,000
<u>Local Quality Rating System (QRS) Resources</u> Consultant to develop and help implement; annual review thereafter	15,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
SUB-TOTALS	\$1,955,000	\$3,615,000	\$1,985,000	\$1,980,000

Summary of New Financial Resources Required to Implement the Early Childhood Plan (continued)

	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	Annual Ongoing
<u>GOAL 2: Early Childhood Health</u>				
<u>More Children Have Their Own Doctor</u>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financially sustain pediatric practices that accept HUSKY and Uninsured to ensure that children have their “own” pediatrician <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ongoing significant support from Norwalk Hospital to NCHC ○ Identifying other systemic funding for NCHC 	Currently undetermined amount	Currently undetermined amount	Currently undetermined amount	Currently undetermined amount
<u>Behavioral Health Care</u>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family medical care model that includes behavioral health screenings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CT Health Foundation (\$200,000 grant already awarded) ○ CHDI (\$30,000 grant request pending) ○ <i>Help Me Grow</i> training for doctors (no cost)..... ○ Pediatric Practice Outreach Coordinator ○ To provide additional services to children needing referrals..... • Pediatric case manager (year 1 – Norwalk Children’s Foundation) 	Start-up grants No cost \$75,000/yr. + benefits \$375,000	No cost \$75,000/yr. + benefits \$375,000	No cost \$75,000/yr. + benefits \$375,000	No cost \$75,000/yr. + benefits \$375,000
	Grant funding already obtained	\$63,000	\$63,000	\$63,000
<u>Dental Health Care</u>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Norwalk Smiles</i> dental clinic in South Norwalk Spring 2007. A permanent chair at Ben Franklin and a mobile chair at Nathaniel Ely for Head Start. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding required for pediatric dentist <p>Already receiving grant funding, and will be eligible for 3rd party payment & sliding scale.</p>	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
<u>Obesity</u>				
Health Dept Staff person	Grant funding already obtained	\$45,000/yr. + benefits	\$45,000/yr. + benefits	\$45,000/yr. + benefits
SUB-TOTALS	\$500,000	\$608,000	\$608,000	\$608,000

	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	Annual Ongoing
GOAL 3: Information-Rich Community for Families				
<u>Make Information Easily Accessible for All</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> promote high quality, well established information sources including: <i>211 (Infoline), Born Learning, Norwalk Public Schools Kindergarten Transition information</i> Provide families access to information on local family services, community events, parenting and child development, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Traditional media, libraries, Parent Outreach Workers Network</i>—in kind/no cost, <i>Norwalk Kids Start Smart website</i> – in-kind support for hosting and further development, if possible. If not, \$5,000/yr <i>Workshops and Family Resource Center parent activities</i> 	\$20,000/ materials	\$20,000/ materials	\$20,000/ materials	\$20,000/ materials
<u>Target Low-income Families</u> Marketing campaign that builds many small “Parent Circles” to educate, inform and motivate parents; will build on proven programs and community networks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine priority messages Work with (social) marketing consultant to create facilitator training and materials – in-kind/no-cost Consultant to develop parent circle model, provide training and evaluate Recruit & train neighborhood parents as facilitators (parent leadership) Start first year with 10 Parent Circles; build 40 circles by 2010. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Stipends for facilitators: estimate Food & materials Ongoing Coordination and Administrative Support 	\$20,000/yr workshops and FRC activities	\$20,000/yr workshops and FRC activities	\$20,000/yr workshops and FRC activities	\$20,000/yr workshops and FRC activities
	25,000	5,000		
	20,000			
	10,000			
	Sub-tot 60,000	95,000	115,000	115,000
SUB-TOTALS	\$100,000	\$135,000	\$155,000	\$155,000

Norwalk Fiscal Scan of Early Childhood Funding

City of Norwalk: Funding for Services to Children Ages Birth to 8: SUMMARY

(prepared by Holt, Wexler & Farnam)

Federal Government		
CDBG	4,200	
USHHS	1,400,000	
USDOE	1,458,540	
Subtotal	2,862,740	4.4%
State Government		
Children's Trust Fund	219,991	
DPH	336,634	
DMR	1,255,680	
DCF	3,839,100	
DSS	7,272,995	
SDE	7,893,936	
Subtotal	20,818,336	32.3%
Local Government		
City of Norwalk	39,659,477	61.6%
Philanthropic		
New Alliance Foundation	11,468	
United Way	16,028	
GE Foundation	20,000	
CT Primary Care Association	21,616	
New Canaan Community Foundation	31,214	
William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund	40,000	
Louis Calder Foundation	40,820	
Community Fund Darien	46,050	
First County Bank Foundation	57,809	
The United Way of Norwalk and Wilton	63,000	
CT Health Foundation	122,500	
United Way of Tri-State/UW Norwalk and Wilton	125,668	
Norwalk Children's Foundation	160,000	
Fairfield County Community Foundation	263,563	
Subtotal	1,019,734	1.6%
Grand Total	64,360,288	100.0%

City of Norwalk: Funding for Services to Children Ages Birth to 8: DETAILS

Source	Program Name	Period	Total	%
CDBG Total	Diabetes/Obesity Walking and Nutrition Project Total	2006-07	\$4,200	0.01%
Children's Trust Fund Total	Nurturing Families Network Total	2006	\$219,991	0.34%
City of Norwalk Total	LOCAL EDUCATION FUNDING Total	2006-07	\$39,659,477	61.62%
Community Fund Darien	Family & Children's Agency-Mid Fairfield	2006-07	\$15,750	0.02%
	George Washington Carver Community Center	2006-07	\$18,900	0.03%
	Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance	2006-07	\$2,400	0.00%
	STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way	2006-07	\$9,000	0.01%
Community Fund Darien Total			\$46,050	0.07%
CT Health Foundation	Child Guidance Center of Mid-Fairfield County	2005	\$22,500	0.03%
	Help Me Grow *Grant to the Norwalk Community Healthcare Center	2006-07	\$100,000	0.16%
CT Health Foundation Total			\$122,500	0.19%
CT Primary Care Association Total	CPCA Medicaid 0-18 Total	2006-07	\$21,616	0.03%
DCF	Child Protection	2005-06	\$2,433,550	3.78%
	Extended Day Treatment	2005-06	\$95,098	0.15%
	Foster Care	2005-06	\$329,169	0.51%
	Foster Care Clinic	2005-06	\$7,313	0.01%
	Intensive Family Preservation	2005-06	\$216,132	0.34%
	Intensive Home Based Services: IICAPS	2005-06	\$144,060	0.22%
	Multidisciplinary Team	2005-07	\$2,536	0.00%
	Outpatient Psychiatric Clinic for Children	2005-08	\$265,647	0.41%
	Parent Aide	2005-06	\$167,291	0.26%
	Respite Care Services	2005-06	\$1,566	0.00%
	Safe Home	2005-06	\$123,907	0.19%
	Therapeutic Child Care	2005-06	\$52,832	0.08%
DCF Total			\$3,839,100	5.97%
DMR Total	Birth to Three Total	2005-06	\$1,255,680	1.95%
DPH	Immunization Action Plan	2006	\$83,522	0.13%
	Obesity Program	2005-06	\$19,172	0.03%
	Preventative and Primary Care-Maternity Child Coordinator 0-18	2006-08	\$31,440	0.05%
	WIC	2006	\$202,500	0.31%
DPH Total			\$336,634	0.52%
DSS	Care4Kids - Infant / Toddler (INTD - under 3)	2005-06	\$605,274	0.94%
	Care4Kids - Pre-School (PRES - 3 through 5)	2005-06	\$461,220	0.72%

	Care4Kids - School Aged (SCH - six and older)	2005-06	\$110,737	0.17%
	Child Day Care	2005-06	\$1,067,584	1.66%
	Families In Training	2005-06	\$8,031	0.01%
	Family Counseling Services	2005-06	\$20,799	0.03%
	HUSKY A	2005-06	\$4,618,006	7.18%
	HUSKY B	2005-06	\$318,867	0.50%
	Quality Enhancement Grant	2005-06	\$62,477	0.10%
DSS Total			\$7,272,995	11.30%
Fairfield County Community Foundation	AmeriCares Free Clinics-South Norwalk	2005-06	\$3,000	0.00%
	Brighter Futures Program	2005-06	\$10,000	0.02%
	Catholic Charities/Room to Grow	2005-06	\$25,000	0.04%
	Child Guidance Center of Mid-Fairfield County Total		\$30,300	0.05%
	Community Health Centers, Inc.	2005-06	\$35,000	0.05%
	Fairfield County After School Network	2004-05	\$9,175	0.01%
	Family and Children's Agency	2005-06	\$2,000	0.00%
	Family Resource Center at Fox Run Elementary School	2005-06	\$4,388	0.01%
	George Washington Carver Center	2004-05	\$9,000	0.01%
	George Washington Carver Foundation	2005-06	\$30,000	0.05%
	Lawyers for Children America	2004-05	\$749	0.00%
	Maritime Aquarium	2005-06	\$4,167	0.01%
	NEON	2004-05	\$18,000	0.03%
	Norwalk After School Alliance	2005-06	\$10,200	0.02%
	Norwalk Community College Child Development Lab	2004-05	\$10,000	0.02%
	Norwalk Community Health Center	2005-06	\$6,300	0.01%
	Norwalk Education Foundation	2004-05	\$9,950	0.02%
		2005-06	\$3,140	0.00%
	Norwalk Grassroots Tennis after-school/summer programs for Children and Teens	2004-05	\$2,750	0.00%
		2005-06	\$1,000	0.00%
	Norwalk Hospital Foundation	2005-06	\$8,500	0.01%
		2005-06	\$1,000	0.00%
	Norwalk Public Schools-Science Fair	2005-06	\$1,568	0.00%
	Side By Side Community School	2005-06	\$250	0.00%
	Star Inc.	2005-06	\$1,500	0.00%
	Stepping Stones Museum for Children	2004-05	\$10,241	0.02%
		2005-06	\$16,385	0.03%
Fairfield County Community Foundation Total			\$263,563	0.41%
First County Bank Foundation Total		2005	\$57,809	0.09%

GE Foundation Total		Brighter Futures Program	2006	\$20,000	0.03%
Louis Calder Foundation Total			2005	\$40,820	0.06%
New Alliance Foundation	Family & Children's Agency-Mid Fairfield		2006	\$3,140	0.00%
	George Washington Carver Community Center		2006	\$3,140	0.00%
	Maritime Aquarium		2006	\$3,140	0.00%
	Stepping Stones Museum for Children		2006	\$2,048	0.00%
New Alliance Foundation Total				\$11,468	0.02%
New Canaan Community Foundation	STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way		2006	\$10,733	0.02%
	Stepping Stones Museum for Children		2006	\$20,481	0.03%
New Canaan Community Foundation Total				\$31,214	0.05%
Norwalk Children's Foundation	Brighter Futures/Bd of Education		2006	\$100,000	0.16%
	Case Manager/Pediatrics and OBGYN Services		2006-07	\$60,000	0.09%
Norwalk Children's Foundation Total				\$160,000	0.25%
SDE	Early Reading Success		2006-07	\$1,069,645	1.66%
	Education Equalization		2006-07	\$2,711,343	4.21%
	Education Of Homeless Children And Youth		2006-07	\$6,543	0.01%
	Extended School Hours		2006-07	\$59,472	0.09%
	Family Resource Center Program		2006-07	\$119,633	0.19%
	Head Start – State		2006-07	\$142,000	0.22%
	Priority School Districts		2006-07	\$652,055	1.01%
	Quality Enhancement Grant		2006-07	\$62,477	0.10%
	School Accountability – Summer School		2006-07	\$69,645	0.11%
	School Breakfast Program		2006-07	\$65,438	0.10%
	School Readiness		2006-07	\$2,438,891	3.79%
	Spec Ed-Ag Placements & Excess Cost		2006-07	\$269,517	0.42%
	Spec Ed-Ag. Placements & Excess Cost		2006-07	\$203,286	0.32%
	Special Ed Excess Cost Equity		2006-07	\$3,786	0.01%
State School Breakfast		2006-07	\$20,205	0.03%	
SDE Total				\$7,893,936	12.27%
United Way of Norwalk & Wilton	Norwalk Kids Start Smart			\$63,000	0.10%
United Way of Norwalk & Wilton Total			2006	\$63,000	0.10%
United Way Total	Medicaid Outreach		2006	\$16,028	0.02%
United Way of Tri-State/UW Norwalk and Wilton	21 st Century Challenge Initiative Grant for Norwalk Healthy Families Collaborative Project		10/05 – 9/06	\$125,668	0.20%
United Way of Tri-State/UW Norwalk and Wilton Total			10/05-9/06	\$125,668	0.20%
USDOE	Bilingual Education		2006-07	\$38,161	0.06%
	Child Nutrition State Matching Grant		2006-07	\$9,474	0.01%

	Comprehensive School Reform	2006-07	\$144,279	0.22%
	IDEA	2006-07	\$25,144	0.04%
	IDEA Sliver Grant	2006-07	\$3,137	0.00%
	IDEA-Part B	2006-07	\$726,746	1.13%
	Immigrant & Youth Education Program	2006-07	\$10,978	0.02%
	Interdistrict Cooperative	2006-07	\$10,978	0.02%
	Magnet School Operating	2006-07	\$200,901	0.31%
	Magnet School-Transportation	2006-07	\$36,775	0.06%
	Mathematics And Science Partnership Pgm.	2006-07	\$10,978	0.02%
	National School Lunch	2006-07	\$240,992	0.37%
USDOE Total			\$1,458,540	2.27%
USHHS Total	Head Start	2006-07	\$1,400,000	2.18%
William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund Total	Norwalk Kids Start Smart (Discovery)	2006	\$40,000	0.06%
Grand Total			\$64,360,288	

The local dollars devoted to K-3 expenditures in 2005-2006 were calculated by multiplying the total local share of education funding (\$126.44 million) times by the proportion K-3 students to K-12 students (31.4%). The total local share was calculated by taking the total education funding of \$147.85 million reported to the State on the EDOO1 report and deducting Education Cost Sharing and Priority School District funding (\$10.72 million), Schedule 8 values for State Grants (\$4.42 million), Federal Grants and Medicaid (\$6.38 million), and Other (\$142,500).

*The information contained in the fiscal scan represents funding provided to Norwalk by State, Federal, Municipal and Philanthropic organizations to children and their families. Private funds already invested by families on resources such as private school, child care and alternative healthcare were not included in the scan.

Results Based Accountability (RBA) Sample

Quality of Life (Population) Result Summary

Population: All children in Norwalk, ages 0 – 8

Results: All Norwalk children start school healthy and ready to learn, starting them on a path of future success in school and life

Indicators:

1. {Indicator(s) of physical/behavioral health}
2. % of children with a pre-school experience
- 2b. [% of children with a (quality) pre-school experience] – *to be developed*
3. [Norwalk K assessment//State K assessment data for Norwalk] – *needs more work*
4. 4th grade reading scores

Story Behind the Headlines

Children’s development is first monitored by pediatricians and health practitioners. When children do not have regular visits to a pediatrician or family care practice, developmental problems often go unnoticed and unattended, and then can develop into more serious problems that can interfere with the child’s future development and learning.

For many years, Kindergarten teachers have evaluated their students individually (but not collectively) noting a wide range in skills when starting Kindergarten, discrepancies which more often than not set a baseline for future academic success. In short, the “achievement gap” is already evident when children enter kindergarten.

Investments in early childhood care and education are smart investments because they are early interventions or preventative which reduces public spending over the long run and increases positive outcomes for children.

Partners with a role to play:

• Norwalk Hospital	• Parents	• Social Service Agencies	• Business
• Norwalk Community Health Ctr	• Preschool centers	• Mental Health Providers	• Local Philanthropy
• Norwalk Public Schools	• Norwalk Community College	• Family Resource Centers	• Others...

What Works:

<i>Proven strategies</i>	<i>Criteria</i>
Regular, high quality pre-natal care	
Regular pediatric visits for children 0-5 Including developmental screening	
High quality, affordable infant-toddler care	⊖ Large unmet need, but few players and lower returns for investment than ECE for 3&4yr olds
Universal access to high quality, affordable preschool for 3-4 yr olds	✓ Potential high impact and attainable goal for Norwalk

Action Plan and Budget

See Norwalk’s 2007-2010 Early Childhood Action Plan

Performance Accountability
For Programs, Agencies & Service Systems

Goal 1: Early Care and Education Goal

Current Goal Statement:

Norwalk families enjoy universal access to quality and affordable early care and education services/ All Norwalk children can go to a high quality preschool

Restated as System Goal:

To provide access to quality, affordable early care and education services for all 3 & 4 year old children in Norwalk

Key Budget Information

Current Sources	New Requests
See FISCAL SCAN for City of Norwalk in Norwalk's 2007-2010 Early Childhood Action Plan	See Budget in Norwalk's 2007-2010 Early Childhood Action Plan

Need to Turn the Curve

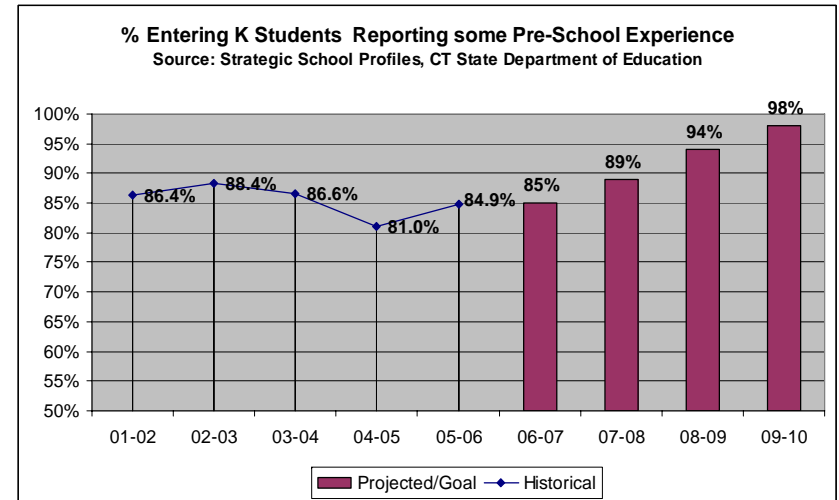
1. % of children with a pre-school experience
- 1b. [% of children with a (quality) pre-school experience] – *to be developed*
2. [Norwalk K assessment//State K assessment data for Norwalk] – *needs more work*
3. 4th grade reading scores

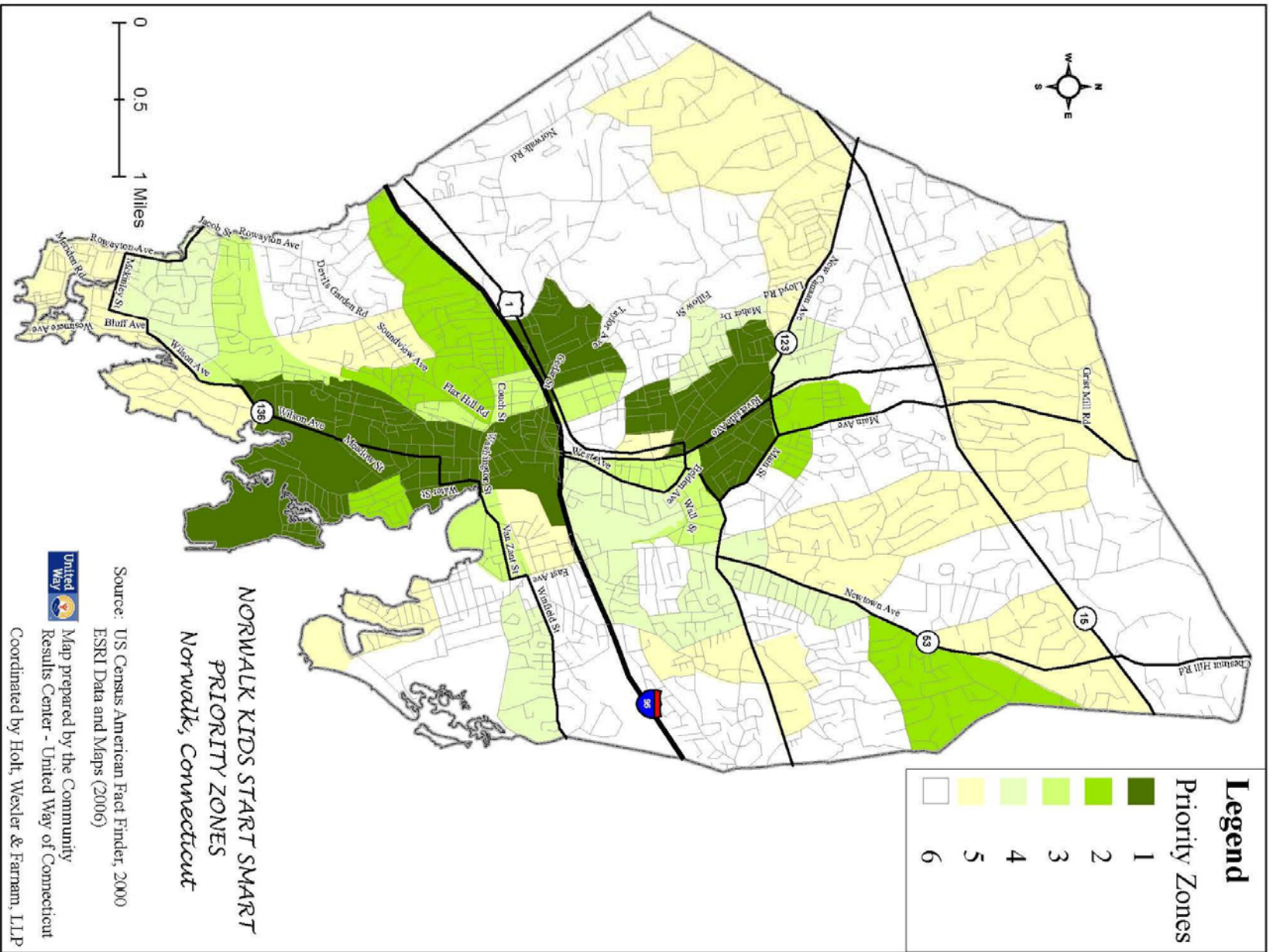
Contribution to Quality of Life:

If children enter Kindergarten more prepared to learn, they are more likely to be successful in school. Also, universal preparation for Kindergarten will help reduce the achievement gap. Overall, better educated students will be more productive, contributing community members.

What do we Propose to Do to Improve System Performance in the Next 3 years

- Increase by 200 # of SRC slots over 3 years
- Create 20 subsidized slots and related costs with local funding
- Quality strategies – see plan





Summary of Possible Community Messages

	0-9 Years		Pre-natal		0-2 Years	
	What	How	What	How	What	How
Health & Safety	Find a pediatrician and dentist for your child	Call 211 to identify providers accepting HUSKY or go to Norwalk Community Health Center, Norwalk Health Dept. and Norwalk Smiles	Seek pre-natal health care as soon as you know you are pregnant & make frequent visits	Go to Norwalk Community Health Center	After your delivery, do not leave hospital without an appointment with a pediatrician. Ask nurse in hospital to make you an appointment	Call 211 for providers accepting HUSKY, or go to Norwalk Community Health Center, Norwalk Health Dept. and Norwalk Smiles
	Make sure your child has regular well child visits and dental care	Keep a calendar of visits and keep the appointments.			Keep appointments for regular check-ups. Clean your baby's gums. Teach your toddler to brush teeth.	Go to Norwalk Community Health Center or find out about other providers who take HUSKY thru 2-1-1
	Learn about immunizations and those that are required for entry to day care and public school	Call Health Dept., call or visit NCHC; See NPS Website	Have recommended immunizations during pregnancy	NCHC Ob/Gyn Department	Get your child all recommended immunizations	Go to NCHC or other HUSKY provider, or AmeriCares Clinic or Norwalk Health Dept. Immunization Action Plan
	Schedule child care, school and camp physicals early, they may not be able to see you at the last minute	Call or visit NCHC at least a month in advance to schedule an appointment			Get required physical before enrolling your child in a child care center or family day care home	Norwalk Community Health Center or Norwalk Health Dept.
	Nutrition Today Matters Tomorrow (March of Dimes message)	Provide healthy meals and snacks, avoid "junk" food and EXERCISE	Take folic acid every day. Eat healthy foods and avoid alcohol and drugs during pregnancy	Available through WIC at 854-7776 Attend <i>Comenzando Bien</i> prenatal health ed workshops at NCHC in English or Spanish	Breast feed your baby or use iron rich formula. Introduce healthy solid foods at 6 months. Walk and Play.	Call Norwalk Hospital Maternity Center for breastfeeding support or La Leche League. Become a NorWALKER (NHD)
	Do you have questions or concerns about how your child is learning, developing or behaving?	Keep a journal of your concerns. When you visit doctor write down questions beforehand and make notes of the doctor's answers	Speak to your OB provider if you have any concerns about your pregnancy	NCHC Ob/Gyn Department or other provider	Never shake a baby! Back to sleep! Do you have concerns about your how your child is learning, behaving or developing?	Call Help Me Grow and speak to your child's doctor and Child Guidance of Mid-Fairfield
	Keep Your Child Safe!	Safety proof your home and provide protection outside the home			Use care sets & safety proof your home. Prevent injuries.	Fairfield County Safe Kids & Norwalk Hospital for info

Summary of Possible Community Messages (continued)

	0-9 Years		Pre-natal		0-2 Years	
	What	How	What	How	What	How
Development & Learning	Hold, talk, listen, sing, read and play with your child from day one	Books from Norwalk Public Library, Norwalk Reads, Reach Our & Read. Literacy Volunteers & ESL Programs to help you			Learn about development expectations for your baby	Get material from your pediatrician's office, home visitor, NCHC, Health Dept. or Library
	Be involved in your child's preschool and school	Talk with your child about the experience, provide quiet time and space for homework, communicate with your child's teacher/provider and visit the school regularly			Interact with your baby everyday by talking to, reading to and playing with your child	Share books together from Public Library, Norwalk Reads, Reach Out & Read.
	Provide emotional security through consistency of routine and expectations	Get expectations information from your doctor, home visitor or teacher			Provide emotional security through consistency of routine and expectations	Get expectations information from your doctor, home visitor or teacher
	Never hit your child. "Catch your child being good!"	Seek help from your doctor or Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance Ctr. Or FCA				

Summary of Possible Community Messages (continued)

	3-4 Years		Kindergarten		6-9 Years	
	What	How	What	How	What	How
Health & Safety	Find a dentist for your child	Call 211 for providers accepting HUSKY, or go to Norwalk Community Health Center, Norwalk Health Dept. and Norwalk Smiles	same	same	same	same
	Keep appointments for regular check-ups. Call the doctor if your child is ill and/or has fever over 101 ° Start taking your child to the dentist for regular checkups	NCHC and Norwalk Smiles Dental Clinic or other HUSKY providers (call 2-1-1 for Info)	same	same	same	same
	same	same	Learn about required immunizations for public school entry and schedule a clinic visit well in advance	NPS K Registration Information and go to NCHC or other HUSKY provider, or AmeriCares Clinic or Norwalk Health Dept. Immunization Action Plan	Keep your child's immunizations up to date every year	Call Health Dept, NCHC or other HUSKY provider
	same	same	same	same	same	same
	Provide healthy meals and snacks for your child. Get suggestions re healthy meals and snacks	WIC program at Norwalk Health Department; Food bank-CCA or Norwalk Emergency Shelter Food Bank; Apply for food stamps through DSS at NEON	same	same	same	same
	same	same	Do you have concerns about your how your child is learning, behaving or developing?	Speak to your child's doctor and to your child's teacher. NPS guidance office at your child's school	same	same
	Limit TV, video games. No violence.	Set limits, provide your attention and activities	same	same	same	same

Summary of Possible Community Messages (continued)

	3-4 Years		Kindergarten		6-9 Years	
	What	How	What	How	What	How
Development & Learning	Enroll your child in a "quality" preschool program	Call 2-1-1 to find a licensed program, how to assess quality and finding subsidized slots	Young children learn best through active exploration and play	Pre-school and K staff can provide information and how tos.	Talk with your child about what he/she is learning in school	Get information from child's teacher; attend teacher conferences and school events
	Develop your child's social skills	Arrange "play dates" and trips to library or museums (Stepping Stones Museum for Children)	Get to know your child's teacher and school	Call or write the teacher and visit the school. Attend parent-teacher conferences.	Make sure your child is completing any homework or assignments. Encourage progress.	Check your child's folder, review their work, provide assistance if needed
	Interact with your baby everyday by talking to, reading to and playing with your child	Books from Public Library, Norwalk Reads, Reach Out & Read.	If your child is having problems in kindergarten look for a good after school program	Ask at school about scholarships for in - school programs and/or use a community after school program		
	Establish predictable routines for your child	Get guidance from pre-school teachers, BOE transition information/workshop support				
	Begin to set behavioral expectations	Get guidance from parent circles or your pediatrician				
	Understand expectations for kindergarten	KSS web site and Norwalk Public Schools				

List of Acronyms

CHDI – Children’s Health and Development Institute
CMT – Connecticut Mastery Test
DSS – Connecticut State Department of Social Services
ECE – Early Childhood Education
ECERS – Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale
FRC – Family Resource Center
FQHC – Federally Qualified Health Center
HUSKY – Healthcare for Uninsured Kids and Youth
NAEYC – National Association for the Education of Young Children
NCC – Norwalk Community College
NCF – Norwalk Children’s Foundation
NCHC – Norwalk Community Health Center
NPS – Norwalk Public Schools
PD – Professional Development
QRS – Quality Rating System
RBA – Results Based Accountability
SDE – Connecticut State Department of Education
SR – School Readiness
SRC – School Readiness Council
TBD – To be determined

For more information on this report, please contact:

Mary Budrawich
Instructional Specialist for Early Childhood
Norwalk Public Schools
125 East Ave. P.O. Box 6001
Norwalk, CT 06852-6001

(203) 854-4147
budrawichma@norwalkpublicschools.net