



# Resources for Children With Special Needs in Greater Danbury

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www.danburychildrenfirst.org  
203-797-8088

## General Information and Referrals

### 2-1-1

Provides free, confidential referrals on child care, health services, disability services, counseling, crisis intervention, and more. [Offers information on services and support groups both inside and outside of the Greater Danbury area.](#) Available 24 hours a day, every day.

**Phone:** Dial 2-1-1  
**Website:** [www.211infoline.org](http://www.211infoline.org)

### Help Me Grow

Free, confidential service. Connects families to community services related to health, behavior, development, and parenting. Provides child development information to families with children birth through age 8.

**Phone:** 1-800-505-7000

### Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut, Inc.

Provides information for parents and caregivers on mental health treatment for children.

**Website:** [www.KidsMentalHealthInfo.com](http://www.KidsMentalHealthInfo.com)

## Early Intervention/ Preschools

### Connecticut's Birth to Three System

If you have concerns about a child's ability to see, talk, hear, move, eat, or play. Serves children in Connecticut up to age 3 who have significant delays in development or certain medical conditions. Refers families to Danbury-area providers.

**Phone:** 1-800-505-7000  
**Website:** [www.birth23.org](http://www.birth23.org)

### Head Start of Northern Fairfield County

Free, high-quality program for 3- and 4-year-old children from income-eligible families. Serves children with special needs.

Kathy Brinckerhoff 203-743-3993 ext. 140

### Danbury School Readiness Program

Offers high-quality, accessible, affordable early childhood programs. Serves children with special needs.

Eileen Costello 203-791-1904

### Public School Preschools

Most Connecticut public schools offer pre-school programs for children with special needs. Call the numbers listed below to find out what your school district offers.

Information is provided for referral only. Danbury Children First does not endorse or recommend any provider or service.

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## Public Schools

### Danbury Public Schools

**ESL Reception Center** 203-790-2849

### Danbury Public Schools Early Childhood Program

For children ages 3–5 who may have difficulty listening, talking, playing, thinking, moving, understanding, or learning.

Fran Tyluki or Deb Nolan 203-797-4832

### Director of Special Education

Joyce Emmet 203-790-2613

### Elementary Special Education Supervisor

Donna Warner 203-797-4775

### Interim Secondary Special Ed. Supervisor

Debbie Maillouz-Petersen 203-797-4840

### Bethel Public Schools

### Director of Special Education

Linda Pica 203-794-8616

### Supervisor of Special Education

Liz DiBiase 203-794-8091

### Brookfield Public Schools

### Director of Special Education

Charlie Manos 203-775-7748

### New Fairfield Public Schools

### Supervisor of Special Education

Laura Olson 203-312-5926

### Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Aimee Turner 203-312-5774

### Newtown Public Schools

### Director of Pupil Services

Dr. Michael Regan 203-426-7626

### Supervisor of Special Education

Janet Calabro 203-426-7626

### Redding Public Schools

### Director of Special Education

Brian Farrell 203-938-9026

### Assistant Director of Special Education

Cheryl Freeston 203-938-9026

### Ridgefield Public Schools

### Director of Special Education

Karen Berasi 203-431-2800 ext. 2020

### Special Education Supervisors

Kathy Murphy 203-431-2800 ext. 2041

Rhonda Pfeiffer 203-431-2800 ext. 2041

## Local Parent Support and Advocacy

### Danbury Area Autism Spectrum Parent Group

Support group for parents of children on the Autism Spectrum. Meets at Walnut Hill Community Church in Bethel.

Bruni Edwards 203-797-8116

### Connecticut Family Support Network Northwest Region

Provides resources for families raising children

with disabilities. Offers parent networking, support groups, agency referrals, and help with advocating for local programs and services.

**Phone:** Trish Butler 203-826-9739

### Danbury Down Syndrome Support Group

Organizes play groups, parties, and holiday events for families.

**Phone:** MaryAnn Flanagan at 203-778-4873

**E-mail:** [littlelollie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:littlelollie@sbcglobal.net)

### Greater Danbury Child & Family Network

A group of parents and professionals who advocate for children with special needs. A Local Interagency Coordinating Council of the Birth to Three program, it provides feedback to the State, offers workshops, and sponsors Family Fun Nights.

**Phone:** Trish Butler 203-739-9614

### Familias Hispanas Unidas en el area de Danbury

Provides support and information to Spanish-speaking parents who have children with special needs.

**Phone:** Shirley Ricart 203-792-3540

### Newtown Youth and Family Services

Offers support groups for parents and siblings (Sibshop) of children with special needs; also offers advocacy.

**Phone:** 203-270-4335

**Website:** [www.newtownyouthandfamilyservices.org](http://www.newtownyouthandfamilyservices.org)

### Northwest Regional CT Medical Home Support Center for Children and Youth with Special Care Needs

Serves Danbury-area families. Provides care coordination, family support, advocacy, Title V Funds, benefits coordination.

**Phone:** Toll Free: 1-866-517-4388

**E-mail:** [Renaee Vitale at rvitale@stmh.org](mailto:Renaee.Vitale@stmh.org)

### WeCAHR

Serves all disabilities and all ages. Helps people get the services and supports they need to attend school and live and work successfully in the community. Offers advocacy counseling, training, and support.

**Phone:** 203-792-3540

**Website:** [www.wecahr.org](http://www.wecahr.org)

## Oral Health Resources

### Danbury Public School Oral Health Initiative Program

Provides two mobile school-based dental clinics and one fixed site clinic.

**Phone:** 203-790-2812

Please see reverse for more resource information...

## Connecticut Oral Health Providers that Work with Children with Special Needs:

Yale Pediatric Dentistry Center

1-203-785-2697

UCONN Pediatric Dental Clinic

1-860-545-9030

Southbury Training School

1-203-586-2302

Danbury Hospital Dental Service,

no insurance needed 203-791-5000

## Respite Resources

### Connecticut Lifespan Respite Coalition

Works to establish quality, coordinated respite services in Connecticut. Offers the free book "Get Creative About Respite" as well as one-on-one counseling and workshops.

**Phone:** Toll Free: 1-877-737-1966

**Website:** [www.ctrespice.org](http://www.ctrespice.org)

### Connecticut Department of Developmental Services (DDS) West Region

To apply for DDS supports and services, including respite funds:

**Phone:** 1-866-433-8192

**E-Mail:** [DDS.eligibility@ct.gov](mailto:DDS.eligibility@ct.gov)

### West Region DDS Helpline

Provide 24-hour, supervised respite care, support, and recreational activities. Contact your DDS case manager or:

**Phone:** 1-877-274-3888

**Website:** [www.ct.gov/dds](http://www.ct.gov/dds)

*For information on fee-based respite providers, contact [www.ctrespice.org](http://www.ctrespice.org) or dial 2-1-1.*

## Recreational Opportunities

Many municipal park and recreation programs have programs that accommodate or cater to children with special needs. Just ask!

**Danbury Parks and Rec.** 203-797-4632

**Bethel Parks and Rec.** 203-794-8531

**Brookfield Parks and Rec.** 203-775-7310

**New Fairfield Parks and Rec.** 203-312-5633

**Newtown Parks and Rec.** 203-270-4340

**Redding Parks and Rec.** 203-938-2551

**Ridgefield Parks and Rec.** 203-431-2775

### Regional YMCA of Western Connecticut

Offers some programs for children with special needs and will adapt programs when possible.

**Phone:** 203-744-1000 or 203-775-4444

### Special Olympics Connecticut

Provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for children with intellectual disabilities. Danbury Public Schools Special Olympics Team:

**Phone:** Michelle Kimmel 1-203-267-6566

**Website:** [www.soct.org](http://www.soct.org)

### Pegasus Therapeutic Riding

Therapeutic horseback riding for children with special needs, ages 4 and up. No one is turned away based on inability to pay.

**Phone:** Suzann Emmens 1-845-669-8235

**Website:** [www.pegasustr.org](http://www.pegasustr.org)

**SuperKids** Provides fee-based social skills therapy and groups for children and teens. Sliding fee scale available.

**Phone:** 203-431-9150

**Website:** [www.superkidsct.com](http://www.superkidsct.com)

## Mental/Behavioral Health Services

**Catholic Family Services** Offers counseling services for children and families. Accepts insurance; offers a sliding fee scale.

**Phone:** 203-743-4412

**Crisis Hotline (EMPS)** Emergency mobile pediatric/psychiatric services. 2-1-1

### CT Department of Children and Families

**Voluntary Services** For children who are diagnosed with a mental health disorder.

**Phone:** Toll free 1-800-842-2288

### Danbury Hospital Center for Child and Adolescent Treatment Services (CCATS)

Intensive mental health services for children, teens, and families.

**Phone:** 203-830-6082

**Danbury Youth Services** Offers a Youth and Family Counseling program. 203-748-2936

### Family & Children's Aid Child Guidance

**Center** Offers a range of mental health and counseling services for children and parents.

**Phone:** 203-748-5689

**Website:** [www.fcaweb.org](http://www.fcaweb.org)

### Family Focus Partnership of Danbury

Creates a partnership between families and providers to enhance services for families who have children with mental health needs.

**Phone:** Trish Butler at 203-826-9736

**Email:** [trishbutler@comcast.net](mailto:trishbutler@comcast.net)

### Newtown Youth & Family Services

Individual, group, and family counseling for all ages. No one turned away because of inability to pay.

**Phone:** 203-426-8103

### Wellpath

Provides care coordination for children with behavioral health disorders.

**Phone:** Ana 203-756-7287 ext. 117

or Gladys 203-756-7287 ext. 128

## Statewide Parent Support and Advocacy

### African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities (AFCAMP)

Offers support groups, trainings on special education, disability law, and advocacy.

**Phone:** 1-860-297-4358

**Website:** [www.afcamp.org](http://www.afcamp.org)

### Arc of Connecticut

Protects the rights of people with intellectual, cognitive, and developmental disabilities.

**Phone:** 1-860-246-6400

**Website:** [www.arcct.com](http://www.arcct.com)

### Autism Society of Connecticut

Serves as a statewide autism resource, raises awareness, and provides grants to families.

**Phone:** 1-888-453-4975

**Website:** [www.autismsocietyofct.org](http://www.autismsocietyofct.org)

### Board of Education Services for the Blind

Provides services to people of all ages who experience significant vision loss.

**Phone:** 1-860-602-4000

**Website:** [www.ct.gov/besb](http://www.ct.gov/besb)

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## Connecticut Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities (CACLD)

Offers resources for those with Learning Disabilities and Attention Deficit Disorders.

**Phone:** 1-203-838-5010

**Website:** [www.caclld.org](http://www.caclld.org)

### Connecticut Autism Spectrum Resource

**Center (ASRC)** Serves individuals with autism and their families. Provides support,

connection to resources, and advocacy training.

**Phone:** 1-203-265-7717

**Website:** [www.ct-asrc.org](http://www.ct-asrc.org)

### Connecticut Commission on the Deaf and

**Hearing Impaired** Offers a guide to services for the deaf and hard of hearing in Connecticut.

**Phone:** 1-800-708-6796

**Website:** [www.cdhi.ct.gov](http://www.cdhi.ct.gov)

### Connecticut Council on Developmental

**Disabilities** Promotes inclusion of people with disabilities in community life.

**Phone:** 1-860-418-6160

**Website:** [www.ct.gov/ctcdd](http://www.ct.gov/ctcdd)

### Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress

Improves the lives of persons with Down Syndrome.

**Phone:** 1-888-486-8537

**Website:** [www.ctdownsyndrome.org](http://www.ctdownsyndrome.org)

### Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center

**(CPAC)** Supports families of children with any disability or chronic illness, ages birth to 21. Parent consultants, workshops, trainings, a newsletter, information on support groups.

**Phone:** Toll Free: 1-800-445-2722

**Website:** [www.cpacinc.org](http://www.cpacinc.org)

### Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut

Provides support, advocacy, education, and services to people with epilepsy and their families.

**Phone:** Toll Free: 1-800-899-3745

**Website:** [www.epilepsyct.com](http://www.epilepsyct.com)

### FAVOR Family Advocate Program

For parents and caregivers of children with mental health needs. Offers direct advocacy, information, education, resources, and support.

**Phone:** Toll Free: 1-866-630-6055

**Website:** [www.favor-ct.org](http://www.favor-ct.org)

### Learning Disabilities Association of

**Connecticut (LDA of CT, Inc.)** Secures educational and employment opportunities for children and adults with learning disabilities.

**Phone:** 1-860-560-1711

**Website:** [www.ldact.org](http://www.ldact.org)

### NAMI of CT Child and Adolescent Network

Self-help, support and advocacy for families whose children have biological brain disorders.

**Phone:** Toll Free: 1-800-215-3021

**Website:** [www.namict.org](http://www.namict.org)

### Office of Protection and Advocacy for

**Persons with Disabilities** Protects rights of people with disabilities and offers information, referral, and more.

**Phone:** 1-860-297-4300 or 1-800-842-7303

**Website:** [www.ct.gov/opapd](http://www.ct.gov/opapd)

### PATH (Parents Available to Help, Inc.)

Offers a parent-to-parent listener program, information on disability and medical resources, a newsletter, and a family listenerserv.

**Phone:** 800-399-7284 or 203-234-9554

**Website:** [www.pathct.org](http://www.pathct.org)