

Early Childhood Education and Care Glossary of Common Terms and Resources

Center-based Early Childhood Programs are often called nursery schools, pre-schools or day care and provide care in a facility mainly designed for this purpose. Centers differ in educational philosophies, structure, goals and activities, as well as the number of children enrolled. Center-based programs are licensed by the NYC Bureau of Day Care.

Center for Children’s Initiatives (formerly known as Child Care Inc.) is a non-profit organization developed to promote quality early learning, healthy development, and care for children, birth through school-age. Services include: information and consultation to parents, professional training and development to the field, and advocacy and analysis to influence public policy and practice. From its beginning, CCI has served as a child care resource and referral service.

Early Child Care and Education is a term used for education and child care programs that serve children birth to age five. The focus of early education is most often on learning through creative play, sensory experience, and social interaction. Developmental, Reggio Emilia, Progressive, Montessori, and Waldorf are among the leading educational philosophies incorporated by early education programs.

Early Intervention Services are federally funded evaluation and supports made available for children birth to age three who show signs of developmental, physical, communication, and social/emotional or adaptive delays.

Group Family Day Care Programs are held in the caregiver’s residence and provides childcare for up to seven children at a time. Group Family Day Care is licensed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is a document that describes the student’s special needs and his/her need for special education services. The IEP determines the services, modifications, and aids to be provided to the child. The IEP also includes the student’s present level of educational performance and a list of measurable annual learning and achievement goals for the student.

ISAAGNY (Independent School Admissions Association of Greater New York) is a non-profit association of early childhood and ongoing schools that grew out of the need to clarify the process of applying to independent schools and make the transition between schools easier for applicants and their families.

NAEYC (The National Association for the Education of Young Children) is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to improving the well-being of all young children, with particular focus on the quality of educational and developmental services for all children from birth through age 8.

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New York City Department of Health Bureau of Child Care is the regulatory agency for child care services (public and private) operating within New York City. The Bureau regulates group child care, as provided for in the New York City Health Code, Article 47, and provides licensing and registration for group family child care, family child care and school-age care, as regulated under New York State Department of Social Services Regulations. The Bureau is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy environment for all children attending child care.

Parents League of New York is a not-for-profit membership organization of independent schools and families. The Parents League is affiliated with 300 independent schools,; nursery through 12th grade. The Parents League also provides information on parenting toddlers through teens serving as a resource center for New York City Parents.

Pre K For All (Universal Pre Kindergarten): is an optional state funded half-day Pre-Kindergarten programs located in public schools, community centers, or daycare facilities. The program is tuition free to parents made eligible to children turning four years old by the end of December at the school year of entry. Application is made to the NYC Department of Education, beginning in March prior to the beginning of the school year.