

# Early Childcare Capacity Study

Lower Naugatuck Valley



Community Results Center  
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The Community Results Center (CRC) is a department of the United Way of Connecticut that seeks to improve community life by providing research and analysis that informs local planning, measures community change, and increases citizen decision-making capacity.

Malia Sieve, MSW, Director – Research & Evaluation  
Community Results Center  
United Way of Connecticut  
1344 Silas Deane Highway  
Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06067

(860) 571-7207 (voice)  
(860) 571-7522 (fax)

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## SUMMARY

The Early Childhood Committee of the Valley Council of Health and Human Services is in the process of better understanding the population, childcare capacity, and child care options available to parents in its region. The Council defines its region to include the towns of Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Derby, Oxford, Seymour and Shelton. To assist with this, the United Way of Connecticut's Community Results Center has compiled information in the tables to follow, created maps of childcare providers in their region compared to certain demographic characteristics, and developed a childcare resource guide. Below is a brief analysis of some interesting points uncovered in the data tables. Local interpretation is needed to shed light on these figures and bring meaning to the data.

### School Readiness and Performance

The Lower Naugatuck Valley Region has a population of over 6,235 children under five years old. Depending on the town, there are anywhere between 45% of children entering kindergarten with some preschool experience up to 93%. A report released by the State Department of Education in January 2005 set as a goal that at least 90% of children would enter kindergarten having attended preschool. As of the 2004-05 Strategic School Profiles, Oxford is the only town already reaching this goal. Ansonia also struggles with the largest percentage of children performing below proficient on fourth grade CMT reading scores (55%), with Derby in close second (42%).

### Childcare Options

It should be noted that the analysis and data provided is based on the number of children being served by the providers located in the region. This does not capture information about children living in the region that find care in other towns.

As can be seen on the Childcare Capacity tables, approximately 25% of infants are being cared for by providers in the region, 11% of toddlers (18 to 35 months); and approximately 58% of preschool aged children are being cared for by providers in the region. Consistent with the size of the towns, Shelton serves the highest number (1127) and percent (52%) of children in the region.

## POPULATION

In order to have context for the number of children in the area that may need service, the table below provides the number of children between birth through four years old. For the region overall, there were just over 6,000 children under five as of the year 2000 representing approximately 6% of the population.

	Total Population	% of Population Under 5	Under 1	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years
<b>REGION</b>	<b>99,567</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>1,079</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>1,244</b>	<b>1,399</b>	<b>1,264</b>
<b>Ansonia</b>	18,554	6.9%	242	247	278	263	221
<b>Beacon Falls</b>	5,246	6.5%	49	44	81	56	119
<b>Derby</b>	12,391	6.1%	139	176	143	130	95
<b>Oxford</b>	9,821	6.6%	119	111	105	138	166
<b>Seymour</b>	15,454	5.8%	132	222	177	220	210
<b>Shelton</b>	38,101	6.2%	398	449	460	592	453

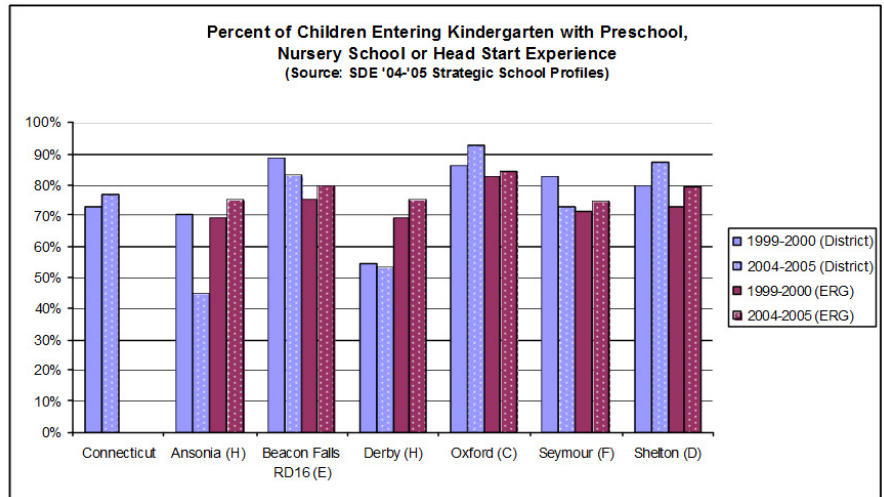
Source: U.S. Census 2000

## SCHOOL READINESS

The table and chart below show the percent of children entering kindergarten with preschool, nursery school or Head Start experience. This information is self-reported to the school district by the child's parent. During discussions with the Early Childhood Committee, it was suggested that the way this question is asked in certain districts may have changed over the years, which may help to explain the dramatic decline in preschool experience in Ansonia reported below.

	% Children Entering Kindergarten with PreK Experience	
	2004-2005	1999-2000
State of Connecticut	77.0%	73.1%
<b>Ansonia</b>	45.1%	70.5%
<b>ERG H</b>	75.2%	69.5%
<b>Beacon Falls (Regional District 16)</b>	83.1%	88.8%
<b>ERG E</b>	80.0%	75.4%
<b>Derby</b>	53.3%	54.8%
<b>ERG H</b>	75.2%	69.5%
<b>Oxford</b>	92.9%	86.0%
<b>ERG C</b>	84.4%	82.9%
<b>Seymour</b>	73.2%	82.7%
<b>ERG F</b>	74.8%	71.5%
<b>Shelton</b>	87.3%	79.9%
<b>ERG D</b>	79.6%	73.3%

Source: Connecticut State Department of Education; 2004-05 School Year Strategic School Profiles



## CMT PERFORMANCE

In order to assess school performance, the state administers the Connecticut Mastery Test to all fourth, sixth, and eighth grade students in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics. Those working in the field of early childhood education are paying particular attention to fourth grade reading scores as an indicator of sustained school readiness and school performance. Below is a table showing the percent of fourth graders meeting the state goal in reading and the percent scoring below proficient.

	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade CMT Reading Scores	
	% Meeting Goal	% Below Proficient
<b>State of Connecticut</b>	52.8%	33.2%
<b>Ansonia</b>	31.5%	55.2%
<b>ERG H</b>	43.6%	40.9%
<b>Beacon Falls (Regional District 16)</b>	70.7%	14.4%
<b>ERG E</b>	59.8%	25.8%
<b>Derby</b>	33.6%	41.8%
<b>ERG H</b>	43.6%	40.9%
<b>Oxford</b>	59.5%	26.2%
<b>ERG C</b>	65.1%	22.4%
<b>Seymour</b>	66.9%	20.2%
<b>ERG F</b>	53.6%	31.6%
<b>Shelton</b>	60.8%	23.8%
<b>ERG D</b>	58.4%	26.9%

Source: Connecticut State Department of Education; 2004

## LANGUAGE

	% 5-17 Years Old Speaking English Less than Very Well <sup>1</sup>					% of Children Speaking a Language other than English at Home <sup>2</sup>
	Total	Speak Spanish	Speak Indo-European	Speak Asian	Speak Other Language	
<b>REGION</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	
Ansonia	3.8%	1.4%	2.2%	0.2%	0%	9.3%
Beacon Falls	10.6%	0.2%	10.3%	0%	0%	1.9% <sup>3</sup>
Derby	3.6%	3.4%	0.2%	0%	0%	14.4%
Oxford	2.1%	0%	2.1%	0%	0%	1.6%
Seymour	2.0%	0.9%	0.1%	0.7%	0.3%	6.6%
Shelton	3.3%	1.1%	1.6%	0.6%	0%	8.4%

Source: Census 2000, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> Children 5-17 years old that speak a language other than English who report speaking English less than very well.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Strategic School Profiles 2004-05

<sup>3</sup> Figure is for Regional School District 16, which includes Beacon Falls and Prospect

## NUMBER OF CHILDCARE PROVIDERS OFFERING BI-LINGUAL SERVICES

(c=Center/Group Provider, f=Family Provider)

	Spanish	Portuguese	Italian	American Sign-Language	German	Other
<b>REGION</b>	<b>14</b> (c=9, f=5)	<b>5</b> (c=2, f=3)	<b>3</b> (c=1, f=2)	<b>2</b> (c=2)	<b>1</b> (c=1)	<b>1</b> (f=1)
Ansonia	3 (c=1, f=2)	1 (f=1)	1 (f=1)			1 (f=1)
Beacon Falls	1 (f=1)					
Derby		1 (f=1)		1 (c=1)		
Oxford	1 (c=1)	1 (c=1, f=1)			1 (c=1)	
Seymour	2 (f=2)		1 (c=1)			
Shelton	7 (c=7)	1 (c=1)	1 (f=1)	1 (c=1)		

Source: Childcare Infoline/United Way of Connecticut

Note: Providers report languages spoken by their staff. These are not bi-services the providers commit to provide, and therefore, figures change based on the staff they have at any point in time. Data above reflects information as of February 2006.

**CHILDCARE CAPACITY: Lower Naugatuck Valley Region  
(Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, Shelton)**

The tables below show the number of providers by type (licensed home, licensed center/group, nursery school, or informal/kith and kin), their desired capacity, the number of children enrolled and the number of vacant slots. Many home and center-based care providers are licensed by the State of Connecticut to provide care for a greater number of children than the provider is willing to serve. Looking at the number of licensed slots gives the reader an inaccurate representation of the actual number of slots available for children in their community, and therefore, the actual slot count is represented as “desired capacity.” The tables also show the number of children in the community and the percent of children the providers in the community are serving. It should be noted that Childcare Infoline does not track the addresses of children in childcare, and the number of children reported below may include children coming from towns other than the six of interest in this report.

United Way of Connecticut was also asked to provide comparison statewide figures. As of the printing of this report, Childcare Infoline was in the process of verifying these figures so they are not currently available.

Age Category	Provider Type	# of Providers	Desired Capacity	Enrolled (Vacancy)	# of Children in Area	% of Children Served
<b>Infant</b> (0-17 months)	Home	77	120	70 (50)	1,704	25%
	Center/Group	20	316	287 (29)		
	Nursery School					
	Informal/Kith & Kin	86		72		
<b>Toddler</b> (18-35 months)	Home	0	0	0 (0)	1,869	11%
	Center/Group	18	230	202 (28)		
	Nursery School					
	Informal/Kith & Kin	Included with Infant Figures Above				
<b>Preschool<sup>1</sup></b> (3-5 years old)	Home	80	265	153 (112)	2,663 <sup>2</sup>	58%
	Center/Group	24	790	675 (115)		
	Nursery School	18	829	605 (224)		
	Informal/Kith & Kin	86		106		

Source: Childcare Infoline/United Way of Connecticut; March 2006

<sup>1</sup>Preschool settings accept children up to age 5. For purposes of this project, only 3 and 4 year olds are considered. It should be noted that some of these slots are filled by 5 year olds.



**CHILDCARE CAPACITY: Ansonia**

Age Category	Provider Type	# of Providers	Desired Capacity	Enrolled (Vacancy)
<b>Infant</b> (0-17 months)	Home	12	23	11 (12)
	Center/Group	1	2	2 (0)
	Nursery School			
	Informal/Kith & Kin	42		28
<b>Toddler</b> (18-35 months)	Home	0	0	0 (0)
	Center/Group	1	18	18 (0)
	Nursery School			
	Informal/Kith & Kin	Included with Infant Figures Above		
<b>Preschool<sup>1</sup></b> (3-5 years old)	Home	13	45	31 (14)
	Center/Group	2	86	80 (6)
	Nursery School	4	129	118 (11)
	Informal/Kith & Kin	42		32

Source: Childcare Infoline/United Way of Connecticut; March 2006

**CHILDCARE CAPACITY: Beacon Falls**

Age Category	Provider Type	# of Providers	Desired Capacity	Enrolled (Vacancy)
<b>Infant</b> (0-17 months)	Home	6	8	7 (1)
	Center/Group	2	119	108 (11)
	Nursery School			
	Informal/Kith & Kin	2		2
<b>Toddler</b> (18-35 months)	Home	0	0	0 (0)
	Center/Group	0	0	0 (0)
	Nursery School			
	Informal/Kith & Kin	Included with Infant Figures Above		
<b>Preschool<sup>1</sup></b> (3-5 years old)	Home	6	21	12 (9)
	Center/Group	1	23	23 (0)
	Nursery School	1	20	0 (20)
	Informal/Kith & Kin	2		1

Source: Childcare Infoline/United Way of Connecticut; March 2006

<sup>1</sup>Preschool settings accept children up to age 5. For purposes of this project, only 3 and 4 year olds are considered. It should be noted that some of these slots are filled by 5 year olds.

**CHILDCARE CAPACITY: Derby**

Age Category	Provider Type	# of Providers	Desired Capacity	Enrolled (Vacancy)
<b>Infant</b> (0-17 months)	Home	12	18	4 (14)
	Center/Group	2	9	9 (0)
	Nursery School			
	Informal/Kith & Kin	22		18
<b>Toddler</b> (18-35 months)	Home	0	0	0 (0)
	Center/Group	2	12	10 (2)
	Nursery School			
	Informal/Kith & Kin	Included with Infant Figures Above		
<b>Preschool<sup>1</sup></b> (3-5 years old)	Home	12	39	14 (25)
	Center/Group	3	106	85 (21)
	Nursery School	1	15	15 (0)
	Informal/Kith & Kin	22		32

Source: Childcare Infoline/United Way of Connecticut; March 2006

**CHILDCARE CAPACITY: Oxford**

Age Category	Provider Type	# of Providers	Desired Capacity	Enrolled (Vacancy)
<b>Infant</b> (0-17 months)	Home	9	15	11 (4)
	Center/Group	1	8	5 (3)
	Nursery School			
	Informal/Kith & Kin	1		2
<b>Toddler</b> (18-35 months)	Home	0	0	0 (0)
	Center/Group	1	8	6 (2)
	Nursery School			
	Informal/Kith & Kin	Included with Infant Figures Above		
<b>Preschool<sup>1</sup></b> (3-5 years old)	Home	9	29	18 (11)
	Center/Group	1	37	35 (2)
	Nursery School	3	160	9 (151)
	Informal/Kith & Kin	1		2

Source: Childcare Infoline/United Way of Connecticut; March 2006

<sup>1</sup>Preschool settings accept children up to age 5. For purposes of this project, only 3 and 4 year olds are considered. It should be noted that some of these slots are filled by 5 year olds.

**CHILDCARE CAPACITY: Seymour**

Age Category	Provider Type	# of Providers	Desired Capacity	Enrolled (Vacancy)
<b>Infant</b> (0-17 months)	Home	18	28	17 (11)
	Center/Group	1	12	8 (4)
	Nursery School			
	Informal/Kith & Kin	5		11
<b>Toddler</b> (18-35 months)	Home	0	0	0 (0)
	Center/Group	1	8	0 (8)
	Nursery School			
	Informal/Kith & Kin	Included with Infant Figures Above		
<b>Preschool<sup>1</sup></b> (3-5 years old)	Home	18	59	34 (25)
	Center/Group	2	40	8 (32)
	Nursery School	4	215	203 (12)
	Informal/Kith & Kin	5		14

Source: Childcare Infoline/United Way of Connecticut; March 2006

**CHILDCARE CAPACITY: Shelton**

Age Category	Provider Type	# of Providers	Desired Capacity	Enrolled (Vacancy)
<b>Infant</b> (0-17 months)	Home	20	28	20 (8)
	Center/Group	13	166	155 (11)
	Nursery School			
	Informal/Kith & Kin	14		11
<b>Toddler</b> (18-35 months)	Home	0	0	0 (0)
	Center/Group	13	184	168 (16)
	Nursery School			
	Informal/Kith & Kin	Included with Infant Figures Above		
<b>Preschool<sup>1</sup></b> (3-5 years old)	Home	22	72	44 (28)
	Center/Group	15	498	444 (54)
	Nursery School	5	290	260 (30)
	Informal/Kith & Kin	14		25

Source: Childcare Infoline/United Way of Connecticut; March 2006

<sup>1</sup>Preschool settings accept children up to age 5. For purposes of this project, only 3 and 4 year olds are considered. It should be noted that some of these slots are filled by 5 year olds.

**AVERAGE COST OF CHILDCARE**

	<b>Service Type (# reporting)</b>	<b>Average Cost</b>	<b>Lowest Cost</b>	<b>Highest Cost</b>
<b>Statewide</b> <i>(as of 8/16/05)</i>	Infant/Toddler Center	\$206/wk	\$107/wk	\$444/wk
	Infant/Toddler Home	\$158/wk	\$80/wk	\$350/wk
	Preschool Center	\$166/wk	\$70/wk	\$350/wk
	Preschool Home	\$151/wk	\$75/wk	\$350/wk
<b>South Central Region</b> <i>(as of 8/16/05)</i>	Infant/Toddler Center	\$206/wk	\$107/wk	\$295/wk
	Infant/Toddler Home	\$155/wk	\$85/wk	\$250/wk
	Preschool Center	\$165/wk	\$70/wk	\$277/wk
	Preschool Home	\$150/wk	\$85/wk	\$250/wk
<b>Ansonia</b> <i>(as of 2/28/06)</i>	Infant/Toddler Center (1)	\$225/wk	\$225/wk	\$225/wk
	Infant/Toddler Home (8)	\$150/wk	\$125/wk	\$175/wk
	Preschool Center (2)	\$169/wk	\$150/wk	\$188/wk
	Preschool Home (8)	\$147/wk	\$125/wk	\$175/wk
<b>Beacon Falls</b> <i>(as of 2/28/06)</i>	Infant/Toddler Center			
	Infant/Toddler Home (5)	\$160/wk	\$130/wk	\$190/wk
	Preschool Center (1)			
	Preschool Home (6)	\$160/wk	\$130/wk	\$190/wk
<b>Derby</b> <i>(as of 2/28/06)</i>	Infant/Toddler Center (2)	\$195/wk	\$170/wk	\$220/wk
	Infant/Toddler Home (9)	\$153/wk	\$125/wk	\$175/wk
	Preschool Center (2)	\$150/wk	\$140/wk	\$160/wk
	Preschool Home (9)	\$150/wk	\$125/wk	\$175/wk
<b>Oxford</b> <i>(as of 2/28/06)</i>	Infant/Toddler Center (1)	\$215/wk	\$215/wk	\$215/wk
	Infant/Toddler Home (8)	\$161/wk	\$150/wk	\$180/wk
	Preschool Center (1)	\$176/wk	\$176/wk	\$176/wk
	Preschool Home (8)	\$153/wk	\$130/wk	\$180/wk
<b>Seymour</b> <i>(as of 2/28/06)</i>	Infant/Toddler Center (1)	\$161/wk	\$161/wk	\$161/wk
	Infant/Toddler Home (18)	\$152/wk	\$140/wk	\$160/wk
	Preschool Center (2)	\$133/wk	\$125/wk	\$141/wk
	Preschool Home (18)	\$152/wk	\$140/wk	\$160/wk
<b>Shelton</b> <i>(as of 2/28/06)</i>	Infant/Toddler Center (9)	\$235/wk	\$175/wk	\$295/wk
	Infant/Toddler Home (15)	\$193/wk	\$165/wk	\$250/wk
	Preschool Center (10)	\$176/wk	\$145/wk	\$214/wk
	Preschool Home (16)	\$194/wk	\$165/wk	\$250/wk

Source: Childcare Infoline/United Way of Connecticut

## SUBSIDIZED CHILDCARE SLOTS

The table below represents information currently available related subsidized childcare. This report reflects four types of childcare subsidies in the State of Connecticut:

- |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Head Start                   | 3. School Readiness |
| 2. State funded childcare slots | 4. Care-4-Kids      |

The first three types of subsidies are funding streams received directly by childcare centers from either the federal government (Head Start) or the State of Connecticut (state funded, school readiness). Care-4-Kids is a childcare subsidy that a parent receives from the State of Connecticut through the Department of Social Services. The subsidy can be used at any childcare facility or home meeting certain criteria.

The table below show the number of school readiness slots funded in each town and the region overall, which the Department of Social Services is able to report. The next column shows the towns that receive Head Start or State funding. The specific number of slots funded by Head Start or the state is not available. UWC attempted to gather this information from the State Department of Social Services and Department of Education but neither office is able to report the number, only the facilities that receives funding for these types of slots.

The last set of columns show the number of centers and homes in each of the towns and the region that receive a Care-4-Kids subsidy to care for a particular child. Also shown are the numbers of children residing in these towns that receive a Care-4-Kids subsidy; these subsidies may be used in towns outside of the region.

	State & Federal Subsidized Slots		Care-4-Kids Subsidies (Informal / Kith and Kin)		
	# of School Readiness Slots (full & part-time) <sup>1</sup>	Town Receives Head Start (HS) and/or State Funding (SF)	# of Providers Receiving Subsidies <sup>2</sup>	# of Children Receiving Subsidy <sup>2</sup>	
				Infant/Toddler	Preschool
<b>REGION</b>	<b>95</b>		<b>86</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Ansonia</b>	80	HS & SF	42	28	32
<b>Beacon Falls</b>	0	No	2	2	1
<b>Derby</b>	15	SF	22	18	32
<b>Oxford</b>	0	No	1	2	2
<b>Seymour</b>	0	HS	5	11	14
<b>Shelton</b>	0	No	14	11	25

<sup>1</sup>Source: CT DSS; data as of March 2006

<sup>2</sup>Source: Care-4-Kids; data as of February 2006

### Income Eligibility Limits for Subsidized Childcare

Head Start:	Below the federal poverty level [see poverty thresholds attached]
School Readiness:	Below 75% of the state's median income (SMI)
Care-4-Kids:	Below 50% of the state's median income (SMI) for new recipients (below 75% SMI if already a recipient prior to 7/1/05) [see Care-4-Kids income guidelines attached]

## APPENDIX

## 2005 Poverty Thresholds

Poverty Thresholds for 2005 by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years

Size of family unit	Related children under 18 years								
	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or more
One person (unrelated individual)									
Under 65 years	10,160								
65 years and over	9,367								
Two persons									
Householder under 65 years	13,078	13,461							
Householder 65 years and over	11,805	13,410							
Three persons	15,277	15,720	15,735						
Four persons	20,144	20,474	19,806	19,874					
Five persons	24,293	24,646	23,891	23,307	22,951				
Six persons	27,941	28,052	27,474	26,920	26,096	25,608			
Seven persons	32,150	32,350	31,658	31,176	30,277	29,229	28,079		
Eight persons	35,957	36,274	35,621	35,049	34,237	33,207	32,135	31,862	
Nine persons or more	43,254	43,463	42,885	42,400	41,603	40,507	39,515	39,270	37,757

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Care-4-Kids**  
**State Median Income (SMI)**  
**Guidelines by Family Size**  
 Effective July 1, 2005

**Income Guidelines For New Applicants**

The income of families applying for Care-4-Kids must be below 50% of the state median income to qualify for the program.

50% SMI 2005-2006		
Family Size	Monthly	Annual
1	1,863.36	22,360.26
2	2,436.70	29,240.34
3	3,010.04	36,120.42
4	3,583.38	43,000.50
5	4,156.72	49,880.58
6	4,730.06	56,760.66
7	4,837.56	58,050.68
8	4,945.06	59,340.69
9	5,050.56	60,630.71
10	5,160.06	61,920.72
11	5,267.56	63,210.74
12	5,375.06	64,500.75

**Income Guidelines For Recipients**  
**(originating prior to 7/1/05)**

75% SMI 2005-2006		
Family Size	Monthly	Annual
1	2,795.03	33,540.39
2	3,655.04	43,860.51
3	4,515.05	54,180.63
4	5,375.06	64,500.75
5	6,235.07	74,820.87
6	7,095.08	85,140.99
7	7,256.33	87,076.01
8	7,417.59	89,011.04
9	7,578.84	90,946.06
10	7,740.09	92,881.08
11	7,901.34	94,816.10
12	8,062.59	96,751.13