

# 10



## Questions

### to Ask When Looking for Quality Child Care:

- What is the average length of time staff has been working at the Center?
- How is the spread of illness controlled?
- Are toys rotated and disinfected on a regular basis?
- Do caregivers wash their hands after every diaper, toileting, blown nose, and before handling food?
- Is the environment clean, safe and oriented to children?
- Does the Center have an open door policy for parents to visit at any time?
- Is a staff person trained in CPR and first aid present at all times?
- Are references and criminal checks done on all new hires?
- Do children seem relaxed and happy?
- Are children offered a variety of meaningful activities throughout the day?



### On Children

*You may give them your love, but not your thoughts for they have their own thoughts.*

*You may house their bodies but not their souls, for their souls dwell in the houses of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.*

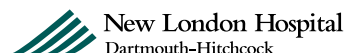
*You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you. For life goes not backward nor tames with yesterday.*

*You are the bows for which your children as living arrows are sent forth.*

-Khalil Gibran



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**603-526-5242**



at New London Hospital



 New London Hospital  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock

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## General Information

ABC's Child Care Center is a state-licensed program located on the lower level of New London Hospital. The center was established in 1986 to help hospital employees with affordable, quality child care. Since that time, it has grown from four children in one room to an average of 36 children in three classrooms, with eight full-time staff and one director. ABC's only accepts employee children of the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health system (NLH employees are receive priority for vacancies).

## Philosophy

At ABC's, we believe that the child care experience should be a positive one, not only for the child, but also for the family. We believe the parent is the child's primary teacher in life. A positive collaboration starting in the early years between the home life and early school experience is essential for the child to succeed. Our qualified staff provides a supportive and stimulating environment where children have fun while learning to build self-confidence, independence and an appreciation of the uniqueness in others. We believe that children learn best when at play. That is why since our opening in 1986, we have used a play-based curriculum. We understand that when children are doing what comes naturally, then learning also comes naturally.

## Ages

Children ages six weeks through six years old are accepted. Six-year olds are accepted for drop-in, vacation and summer camp.



The One-year-olds and Toddlers are in a multi-aged classroom. All the children are assigned a primary caregiver and spend time throughout the day in their designated groups.

## Infant Program

6 weeks - 12 months

Two primary caregivers staff this room. Because each infant is unique, we tailor our efforts to match the temperament and developing personality of each baby. Parental participation and the sharing of caregiving techniques and parenting styles is encouraged. At the same time, we work toward establishing a daily routine that successfully adheres all aspects of a child's first year of life.

## One-year-olds Program

12-18 months

One staff person is the primary caregiver for this group. The general focus is to continue the implantation of an established routine. The child's daily tasks of separating from parent and working on an explosion of gross motor skills are examples of factors addressed in this group. One primary caregiver is responsible for this group.

## Waiting List

If rooms are currently full, your child will be placed on the waiting list once the pre-registration form is returned.

## Hours

ABC's is open year-round from 6:45 am to 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday. We operate on the hospital schedule and are closed for only 6 holidays.

## Tuition

Tuition rates are charged on a weekly or monthly basis in advance of care. Tuition remains the same for days on which there is a holiday or a child does not attend. A rate sheet is available from the office.

## Toddler Program 18 - 36 months

The establishing of a routine continues to be learned with added activities such as painting and beginning scissor use. The focus shifts toward "turn-taking" and the using of words to obtain desired results. As this group grows and matures, the program adapts to their abilities and begins to loosely follow the preschool schedule as they adapt some of the preschool curriculum into their day. Visits to the preschool room, more structured activities and increased behavioral expectations are some of the changes addressed as they mature. Two primary caregivers are responsible for this group.

## Preschool Program 3 - 5 years old

Two staff members provide care for up to 16 children in this program. The preschool room offers a preschool program from September through June and a "summer camp" program for July and August. A daily schedule during the school year is followed that gives the children a sense of structure, but is also flexible enough to accommodate their needs. The summer camp is a relaxed version of the school year program. The children spend a great deal of time outside. Craft projects are set up in the play yard, and if warm enough, water play is enjoyed outside.



## Staff

ABC's staff are selected for both their child care experience and nurturing ways. All staff receive ongoing training in early childhood education, encourage daily communication with parents, and either meet or exceed New Hampshire state licensing regulations. Staff longevity at ABC's averages seven years.

For more information, call  
**603-526-5242**

