

Shaping Norwalk's Early Childhood Community Plan

Over the past year, the Norwalk Early Childhood Local Governance Partner (LGP), early childhood providers, families, and community partners have worked together to review local data, identify community needs, and build on the strengths already present in Norwalk. That work has led to the development of three priority areas that will guide the **Norwalk Early Childhood LGP Community Plan**:

Focus Area #1: Inclusion & Mental Wellness Supports

Ensuring all learners have access to the standard curriculum, inclusive learning environments, and the supports they need to thrive.

Focus Area #2: Prenatal & Early Childhood Well-Being

Supporting the health and well-being of children and families beginning before birth and throughout the early years.

Focus Area #3: Early Literacy & Language Development

Strengthening the foundations for reading, language, and long-term learning success, while building on existing priorities and initiatives that predate the Local Needs Assessment. It is not an improvement plan or a corrective action plan, but rather, will help Norwalk act on a focused set of early childhood priorities where there is a need, an opportunity, and where local strengths and capacity support meaningful progress. Deliverables will include Specific strategies, Measurable targets, Achievable actions, Relevant to Norwalk's needs and Time bound milestones (SMART).

The Community Plan will be informed by local data and shaped by community input. It builds on existing partnerships, ongoing initiatives, and the many assets already present across Norwalk. Rather than creating a new direction, the plan seeks to align and strengthen efforts already underway in areas where there is both need and opportunity for meaningful progress.

Community members and partners will work together to develop clear action steps, measurable goals, and strategies for tracking progress. Three workgroups

will help lead this effort, focusing on inclusion and mental wellness, early literacy and language development, and prenatal and early childhood well-being.

Between now and November, these groups will develop the initial framework and action plan. The first phase of the Community Plan is scheduled for completion on November 20, 2026, with implementation and continued planning extending through June 2027.

Those interested in learning more or participating in a workgroup are encouraged to contact **Carol Carrozelli** at carrozzellic@norwalkps.org. For more information on events and activities, click here to read the latest [Early Childhood Updates newsletter](#).