

SHARED SERVICES



Sharing Services for Exceptional Students

Shared Services Integrated Preschool Program
(SSIPP)

Parent Information Packet
2026-2027

Welcome to the Shared Services Integrated Preschool Program!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to a new school year!

We are thrilled to welcome you and your child to our learning community here at SSIPP. This is the beginning of a special journey, and we are honored to be part of your child's growth and development.

Our program is thoughtfully designed to support your child in all areas of development—**socially, emotionally, physically, and cognitively**—in a warm, nurturing, and inclusive environment. We recognize that every child is unique, and we are committed to meeting each learner where they are, while helping them build confidence, independence, and a lifelong love of learning.

Here's what you can expect in each area of your child's development:

Social Development

Your child will have daily opportunities to build friendships, learn to cooperate, practice kindness, and solve problems peacefully. Through group activities, partner work, and guided play, children learn important communication and teamwork skills that lay the foundation for positive relationships.

Emotional Development

We place a strong emphasis on helping children understand and manage their emotions. Our staff models empathy, teaches self-regulation strategies, and creates a space where children feel safe expressing themselves. Emotional growth is key to building resilience and self-esteem, and we are here to support your child every step of the way.

Physical Development

From outdoor play to movement-based activities, we prioritize both fine and gross motor development. Whether it's through running, climbing, drawing, or using tools and manipulatives, your child will be gaining strength, coordination, and body awareness in a fun and active setting.

Cognitive Development

Our curriculum offers rich, hands-on learning experiences that encourage curiosity, problem-solving, and critical thinking. Children are encouraged to explore, ask

questions, and engage in meaningful learning across a variety of subjects. We promote a growth mindset and celebrate each child's progress and effort.

This handbook includes essential information about daily routines, communication, and how you can stay involved in your child's learning journey. Please take some time to review it, and don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

We are so excited to partner with you and look forward to a joyful, inspiring, and successful year ahead.

**With warm regards,
The SSIPP Team**

Shared Services Integrated Preschool Program

Barkhamsted Elementary School
65 Ripley Hill Road
Barkhamsted, CT 06063
(860) 379-2729

Open House

The SSIPP staff are pleased to invite you and your child to join us for the 2026-2027 Open House on **Friday, August 28, 2026**.

The Open House is not mandatory, however we do encourage all families to attend. It is a chance for the children to explore the classroom, for you to ask any questions you may have about preschool, and provide updated information about your child. The preschool staff will meet you at the back door (where you drop off and pick up your child) of the school.

Open House Times

Program	Day	Time
3 Year Old Class	Friday, August 28, 2026	9:00AM
4 Year Old Class		10:00AM
Intensive Class		1:00PM

The first day of preschool is Monday, August 31, 2026.

SSIPP Information

Regular School Day

Program	Days	Time
3 Year Old Class	Tuesday through Friday	9:00AM - 11:30AM
4 Year Old Class	Monday through Friday	9:00AM - 3:00PM
Intensive Class	Monday through Friday	12:30PM- 3:00PM

Arrival/Dismissal Procedures:

Parents are required to provide transportation for students participating in the Preschool Program as “role model peers”. Pick-up and Drop-off location is at the rear door of the school.

Program	Arrival	Dismissal
3 Year Old Class	9:00AM	11:30AM
4 Year Old Class	9:00AM	3:00PM
Intensive Class	12:30PM	3:00PM

****Transportation for identified children will begin on the first day of school (8/31/26). Shared Services transportation will contact you over the summer to confirm.**

Early Dismissal Day (inclement weather/scheduled)

Program	Early Dismissal Time
3 Year Old Class	9:00AM - 11:30AM
4 Year Old Class	9:00AM - 12:45PM
Intensive Class	No Class

*****April 9th dismissal time for the 4 year old class will be 11:45am.**

Late Opening (inclement weather/scheduled)

Program	Late Opening Time
3 Year Old Class	No class
4 Year Old Class	2 hour delay - 11:00AM 3 hour delay - 12:00PM
Intensive Class	12:30PM - 3:00PM

*****No Preschool Classes on Thursday, March 18th & Friday, March 19th**

Snack/Lunch:

Program	Snack	Lunch
3 Year Old Class	1 snack and drink labeled with child's name	n/a
4 Year Old Class	2 snacks (indicate AM and PM) - 1 food item each and a water bottle, all labeled with child's name	Lunch from home or cafeteria lunch*
Intensive Class	1 snack and drink labeled with child's name	n/a

* Free and reduced lunch available upon completion and acceptance of application. Information on the application can be found at Barkhamstedschool.org or the [State Department of Education website](#).

Clothing (All Programs):

Please send in an extra set of clothes (including socks) in a bag **labeled** with your child's name. The clothes can stay in school or can be left in your child's backpack.

Please have your child wear clothes that can get dirty. We are all about having fun while learning and that is difficult if we are worrying about not getting our clothes dirty!

How to report a pick-up change during the school day:

If you need to report a change in pick-up time or designate a different person for pick-up during the school day, please call Barkhamsted Elementary School and speak directly with your child's teacher. Do not email as teachers may not have access to your message in a timely manner.

How to report an absence:

If your child will be absent from preschool, please inform us as soon as possible. This helps us ensure accurate attendance records and keep your child's teachers informed.

Please email (sroot@barkhamstedschool.org or sgreiner@barkhamstedschool.org) or call your child's SSIPP teacher at (860) 379-2729 by 8:45 AM on the day of the absence.

If you are leaving a message for your child's teacher please include the following information:

- Child's full name
- Class (e.g., 3-Year-Old or 4-Year-Old Class)
- Date(s) of absence
- Reason for absence (e.g., illness, family emergency, etc.)

If your child is ill, especially with symptoms such as fever, vomiting, or contagious illness, please keep them home until they are symptom-free without medication for at least 24 hours. This helps protect the health of all students and staff. Thank you for your cooperation and support!

Health Assessment Form

All children must have an updated Health Assessment Form completed and submitted to the Barkhamsted Health Office. Use the link below to access the Early Childhood Health Assessment Form:
https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/3512/Barkhamsted/2652821/Early_Childhood_Health_Assessment.pdf

Your Child's SSIPP Team

Administrators	
Quentin H. Rueckert - Executive Director of Shared Services	
Daniela Belanger - Assistant Director of Shared Services	
Danielle Radke - Principal of Barkhamsted Elementary School	
3 Year Old Class & Intensive Class	4 Year Old Class
Savanah Greiner	Susan Root - Teacher
Brooke Collins - Registered Behavior Technician/Paraprofessional	Elissa Muscaro - Paraprofessional
Holly McIntyre - Paraprofessional	Christine Santoro - Paraprofessional
Related Services	
Kathleen Rooney - Speech & Language Pathologist	
Sue Mulligan - Occupational Therapist	
Emily Leary - Board Certified Behavior Analyst	
Melissa Duksis - School Social Worker	
Specials Teachers	
Shanna Bazelmans - Art	
Laura Hedenberg - Library	
Sarah Luther-Music	
Belle Magna - PE	

Resources:

Use the link below to access the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards (CT ELDS) and resources related to child development.

<https://www.ctoec.org/supporting-child-development/ct-elds/>

Sparkler is a free app for families with children 0-5 years of age.

This resource can be used as a developmental screening tool, a source for activities to support child development, and can assist with making connections with professionals. Sparkler engages families to promote healthy early childhood development.

<https://playsparkler.org/>