

# Learning-Enhanced Attachment-based Preschool (LEAP) Program

STRENGTHENING A CHILD'S FOUNDATION FOR LIFE.

The Learning-Enhanced Attachment-Based Preschool (LEAP) Program is a trauma-informed therapeutic preschool classroom for children between the ages of 3 and 5 years who live in New Britain. LEAP represents a collaboration between Wheeler, the YWCA of New Britain and the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF). The therapeutic preschool classroom is located at the YWCA's facility. Wheeler provides clinical services and program oversight, and the YWCA provides the program's space and education staff.

The LEAP Program is designed to work with young children who have experienced significant trauma; the primary goals are focus on healthy social, emotional, physical and cognitive development, as well as school readiness and parenting skills. Recognizing that family engagement provides the foundation for successful intervention, a multi-generational approach is utilized to help children thrive and increase caregiver capacity to provide a nurturing environment for the child's growth and development. The LEAP Program's child-centered and family-driven approach recognizes that each family has unique strengths, needs, values and preferences. Families are empowered to actively participate in all aspects of their care.

This model is closely aligned with the Attachment, Self-Regulation and Competency (ARC) Framework. Together, these models focus on safety in relationships, affect regulation, making meaning of traumatic experiences, and integration of traumatic experiences. The program will also offer Circle of Security® Parenting groups for parents and caregivers, and families are invited to participate in all services offered through the YWCA.

Creative Curriculum is used by the program's teacher to foster individualized instruction aligned with the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards (CTELDS). This curriculum addresses the core areas of learning (including early literacy, math, social-emotional, technology, and the arts); links assessment to the curriculum; and offers Best Practice strategies to work effectively with English language learners and dual-language learners as well as children with disabilities. The classroom meets accreditation standards of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and licensing standards of the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood.

For information, call 860.225.4681,  
ext. 297

## Location

19 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051

## Funding Sources

Connecticut Department of Children and  
Families.