

# Early Childhood Resources



Support for children who don't qualify for special education or services after Early Intervention.

## Navigating Ages 3-5

Families of young children may face challenges when they don't qualify for special education or services. Below are resources that can provide support in areas like childcare, development, and community activities. Explore these opportunities to ensure your child continues to thrive.

### Childcare & Preschool Options



#### ► BrightStars

BrightStars helps Rhode Island families find quality childcare, early learning, and school-age programs through a referral service. Families can search for programs online or call 1-855-398-7605 to speak with a specialist for assistance in finding the right program for their needs.

#### ► Head Start Program

Head Start offers free services to support children's development from birth to age five, including preschool and Early Head Start programs for eligible families. To qualify, families must meet income or public assistance criteria; those who don't are still encouraged to apply. More details can be found on the [Rhode Island Head Start Association website](#).

#### ► RI Universal Free Pre-K lottery

RI Universal Free Pre-K offers a lottery-based program for 4-year-old children in 20 designated communities. Eligibility requires residency in one of these areas and meeting the age requirement by September 1.

### Childcare & Preschool Funding Assistance



#### ● Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

The RI Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) helps eligible families pay for child care. Families must meet work, education, or training requirements, or participate in the RI Works program.

#### ● Cabrini Fund

The Cabrini Fund offers scholarships to help working families cover the cost of licensed child care for children 12 and under. Payments are made directly to state-certified child care providers.

### Child Development Information

- ✓ **Learn the Signs. Act Early:** Track your child's development and act early if there are concerns. [Learn the Signs | CDC](#)
- ✓ **RI Early Learning and Development Standards (RIELDS):** Guidelines for children's learning and development from birth to age 5. [RIELDS](#)

### Where to Go if You Have Concerns

[RI Department of Education's Child Outreach Program](#) offers free developmental screenings for children ages 3-5 in every Rhode Island school district.

### Basic Needs Resources

- [Rhode Island Community Action Association | RICAA](#)
- [Rhode Island Community Food Bank \(rifoodbank.org\)](#)



# Community Events & Activities for Families



## Local Resources

- **Local Libraries**  
Many libraries offer free events and discounted passes for activities.
- **Children's Museum**  
Free admission for NHP (Neighborhood Health Plan) members.
- **Outdoor Activities**  
Explore bike paths, parks, and trails across Rhode Island.
- **Low-Cost Activities**  
Discover affordable family activities.

## RIPIN's Link With Your Community Guide

RIPIN's Link With Your Community guide offers fun ideas for Rhode Islanders, including the disability community, with activities like nature walks, local events, and new spots to explore around the state.



For more resources and assistance, contact your local agencies or visit the websites listed above to help your child grow, learn, and enjoy their early years. For additional questions, please reach out to RIPIN at [info@ripin.org](mailto:info@ripin.org) or 401.270.0101.