

Good Afternoon, My name is Lisa Roncaioli. I am the director for Kids Korner Preschool through Rocky Hill Parks and Recreation.

My name is Cathy Sylvester and I am the Recreation Supervisor for the town of Rocky Hill.

We are here to speak to you on behalf of the Tri Town Coalition for preschools and the CT Recreation and parks association. Thank you for this opportunity.

Today we would like to request that municipally run preschools be made exempt from some of the State licensing regulations for day care centers.

Before we list the exemptions we would like to see made, let us explain the difference between day care centers and municipally operated preschool programs:

Daycare centers provide child care to infants and up, for 8 or more hours a day, for 40 or more hours a week, in place of parental supervision.

Municipally operated preschools provide an educational opportunity for children aged 3-6 which prepares them for elementary school. Children are in class for at most 3 hours a day, 5 days a week.

Daycares often times provide sick child care, administer medication, serve meals and assist with toilette training.

Municipally operated preschools do not change diapers, provide meals, sick care or give out medications with the exception of epi-pens. We provide a snack and children must be toilette trained and healthy in order to attend our program.

Daycare centers provide care year round.

Municipally operated preschools follow a shortened school calendar.

The exemptions we are asking for are based on these differences. These are the exemptions we would like to see:

1. Municipalities are exempt from the state regulations when determining the qualifications of a Head Teacher. This is not to say that the state requirements for head teachers are not good, but do exempt other equally qualified teachers with experience that does not fall under the state regulations. For example, someone who has worked 1040 hours changing diapers and feeding bottles to infants is considered to be more qualified than someone who has had experience planning and teaching educationally age appropriate activities in a non licensed facility.
2. A 6 month provisional license is issued to municipally run preschools allowing the licensing process to take place as the program is in progress, unless of course there are physical health risks to the children. As it s this is a disservice to the community and especially to the children who are getting ready for Kindergarten.
3. A statewide handbook be made available to Municipalities outlining the necessary requirements as they pertain to licensing with specific regard to preschools. This may be something that preschools can work together to develop.