

CHILDCARE RESOURCES IN THE GRINNELL AREA

There are a variety of preschool and childcare establishments available in the Grinnell area. The following descriptions are available to provide basic information about the programs and who to contact with questions. The programs are divided into Preschool Only, Preschool/Childcare, In-Home Daycare and After School, Summer/After School, and Recreation.

Preschool/Childcare

Grinnell Community Daycare and Preschool

Contact Person(s): Terry Burkhead, Administrative Assistant and/or Kathleen Barnes, Director, grinnelldaycare@iowatelecom.net, 641.236.7214

Description of Center: Grinnell Community Daycare and Preschool is a full-service childcare center providing basic childcare as well as a rich preschool experience. The Center is a non-profit, community-based organization that has been in existence since 1969 and is licensed by the State of Iowa. A variety of attendance schedules may be arranged (full to part-time). Grinnell Community Daycare and Preschool's programs are designed to foster each child's physical, emotional, social and intellectual growth. Grinnell Community Daycare and Preschool serves children ages 6 weeks through 5 years in the regular program, and school-age children through the fourth grade before school, as well as on snow days and school vacations. A summer program for school-age children is offered (described in Summer/After School section). Center hours are 6:30 am-5:30 pm Monday through Friday, including summers. Tuition is set on a sliding fee scale. For more information call the Center or stop by for a visit (intersection of 10th Avenue and Penrose).

Head Start

Contact Person: Cindy Stockner, cindy@micaonline.org, 641.752.7162, ext. 112

Description of Center: Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) coordinates this need-based, free preschool and childcare program for children ages 3-5. The full-day program runs year-round from 7:00 am-5:00 pm and is located at the Ahrens Family Center, 10th Avenue and Penrose.

Preschool Only

UCC Community Preschool

Contact Person: Kelli Johnson, Lead Teacher, ucccommunitypreschoolgrn@hotmail.com, 641.236.3111

Description of Program: The UCC Community Preschool, sponsored by the United Church of Christ-Congregational, has two key goals-to teach children to get along with others and to enhance each child's self-esteem. Preschool activities also encourage a child's awareness of self and the community through varied experiences with classroom materials, stories, dramatic play, music, art and field trips. Students participate in outdoor play for large and small motor skill development. The school is non-denominational and open to all. Three and young four-year olds attend on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00-11:30

am. Four and five-year olds meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00-11:30 am. Children may also attend the preschool daily.

Grinnell College Preschool

Contact Person: Karen Veerhusen-Langerud, Director, veerhuse@grinnell.edu, 641.269.3320

Description of Program: The Grinnell College Preschool is a research laboratory for The Psychology Department of Grinnell College. The preschool provides a learning environment that supports children to develop the strengths and skills necessary for them to construct their own knowledge and prepare them for their next school environment. The Grinnell College Preschool offers three sessions: Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9:00-11:30 am, Tuesday/Thursday from 9:00-11:30 am and 1:00-3:30 pm.

Grinnell-Newburg Preschool

Contact Persons: Andrea Zhorne (azhorne@grinnell.k12.ia.us) or Jan Phifer (jphifer@grinnell.k12.ia.us), Lead Teachers, 641.236.2796

Description of Program: The school district's preschool program serves children 3-5-years old who have some identified area of developmental delay. Children without delays also participate, acting as "peer models" in this integrated preschool model designed to meet state guidelines mandating a free and appropriate education for all children from birth to age 21. The program offers morning sessions from on Tuesday and Friday from 8:00-11:00 am and an afternoon session Monday-Thursday from 12:00-3:00 pm.

In-Home Childcare Providers

Childcare Resource and Referral

Contact Person: Brenda O'Halloran, 641-820-1923 bohalloran@orchardplace.org

Description of Program: Grinnell includes many in-home childcare providers who often take part in Childcare Resource and Referral (CCR&R) programs and training. CCR&R offers personalized referrals to child care options located in the Grinnell area. A professional parent referral counselor will work with you to determine your specific child care needs and process a referral list that contains the names, addresses, and phone numbers of those programs that best match your specified criteria. Referrals are processed using a database containing child care options including Non-Registered and Registered Family Child Care, Licensed Child Care Centers and Preschools, and School-Age Recreational Programs. CCR&R is not a regulatory agency and does not recommend any programs.

Summer/After School Only

Galaxy Summer Camp for Galaxy Kids and STARS

Contact Person: Linda Harvey, 641.236.7235, director@galaxyouthprograms.com

Description of Program: The summer camp will be held from June to August each summer for children who were in kindergarten the previous school year to 5th grade. The camp offers a safe and stimulating place for children to

spend the summer. Camp hours run from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. The summer camp program includes reading, crafts and organized field trips. Tutoring for children who attend the camp is also available. This program also provides a free breakfast and lunch. Water games, art and nature activities, swimming at the Grinnell Family Aquatic Center, movies on Wednesdays, language lessons, Library activities and many other activities are also planned.

Grinnell Area Arts Council – Studio 6 Afterschool Arts Program

Contact Person: Christian Lutz, 641-236-3203, christian@grinnellarts.org

Description of Program: Studio 6 within the Arts Academy of the Grinnell Area Arts Council offers after-school arts programming to children in grades K-6 where students engage individually or in group settings with a variety of art mediums, materials, and equipment on creative projects both large and small. Attendance choices are for two, three, or four days-per-week and classes are held according to the school district calendar. A transportation option from Grinnell elementary schools to the Grinnell Arts Center is available at an additional cost.

Grinnell Area Summer Camp

Contact Person: Kathleen Barnes 641.236.7214

Description of Program: The goal of the Grinnell Area Summer Camp is to deliver a small-scale, quality summer program for school aged children (that have finished Kindergarten-4th grade) that features engaging and enriching activities during the business day. We create a fun atmosphere that is filled with opportunities for social, cultural and intellectual exploration that are not "academic" or "school-like". The program typically involves daily swimming and outdoor activities (cookouts, picnics, etc.) in addition to weekly themed activities such as cooking projects, science/ecology, arts & crafts, field trips, movies, etc.

Children attending the camp are able to fully utilize the range of facilities and resources available at the Ahrens Family Center as well as opportunities in the community at large. At the Ahrens Family Center, this includes classroom space, playgrounds for school age children, adjacent outdoor basketball and tennis courts, track, soccer fields and volleyball courts.

Galaxy Youth Center

Contact Person: Linda Harvey, Director, [641-236-7235](tel:641-236-7235), director@galaxyyouthprograms.com

Description of Program: The Galaxy Inc., located in the heart of downtown Grinnell, is a non-profit community youth resource center. The Galaxy's mission is to enhance the personal growth and character of Grinnell area youth by providing innovative programming in a safe and supportive environment. The program is open FREE to *all* students in grades 5 through 12. Whether kids participate in after-school programming, attend weekend events, or serve on the Youth Council, all gain positive support from the adult-guided environment and from each other in a space designed to meet their needs. Most importantly, the Galaxy continues to be a place where

parents and guardians feel confident sending their children. The Galaxy represents a safe and positive substance free alternative; it represents choice.

STARS After School Enrichment Program

Contact Person: Linda Harvey, 641.236.7235, director@galaxyouthprograms.com

Description of Program: STARS offers an after-school program that is in session during The academic year for students in kindergarten through 4th grade . The program operates school days 3:00-5:30 pm and provides a variety of activities of concentrating on children's interests. Activities include homework time, individual and group reading, guest speakers, cooperative learning, intergenerational program in conjunction with Mayflower Senior Living, arts and crafts, special field trips, as well as fun and games.

Recreation Programs

City of Grinnell Recreation Programs

Contact Person: Kelly Rose, Recreation Director, 641.236.2620

Description of Programs: The City of Grinnell offers a variety of youth recreation programs throughout the year including: soccer, gymnastics, t-ball, tennis, golf, basketball, swimming lessons, and softball.

Steppin Out Dance Studio

Contact: MeLissa Budinich, 927 Main Street, 641.236.5775

Description of Program: Steppin Out Dance Studio provides lessons in tap and ballet dance for children/adults ages 3 and older.

Michelle's Dance Academy

Contact: Michelle Andrews, 641.236.9337

Description of Program: Michelle's Dance Academy provides dance apparel as well as lessons in tap and ballet for children/adults ages 3 and older.

Prairie Fire Gymnastics and Athletic Center

Contact Person: Marci VanWyk-Moore, 641.236.1438

Description of Program: The Center offers cheerleading, parent/child gym, preschool gym, general gymnastics, women's recreational gymnastics, women's competitive gymnastics, men's recreational gymnastics, men's competitive gymnastics, martial arts, tumbling, and birthday parties.

Prepared by Nicole Brua-Behrens, Communities for Literate Iowa Kids,
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