

## 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:* Kathleen Whisenand, Director, [grinnelldaycare@windstream.net](mailto:grinnelldaycare@windstream.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 and after 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 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Penrose).

#### **Head Start**

*Contact Person:* Margo Knight, [margo.knight@micaonline.org](mailto:margo.knight@micaonline.org), 641.236.8888

*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 6:30am-4:30pm and is located at the Ahrens Family Center, 1436 Penrose St.

### Preschool Only

#### **UCC Community Preschool**

*Contact Person:* Kelli Johnson, Director & Lead Teacher, [uccprek@gmail.com](mailto:uccprek@gmail.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. It is conveniently located downtown and has been in operation for over 50 years. The program offers morning classes for 3 year olds on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00-11:30 am, a morning session for 4 year olds on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00-11:30 am, and an afternoon session for a mixed age class on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 12:30-3:00 pm.

### **Grinnell College Preschool**

*Contact Person:* Karen Veerhusen-Langerud, Director, [veerhuse@grinnell.edu](mailto:veerhuse@grinnell.edu), 641.269.3320

*Description of Program:* The Grinnell College Preschool is a research laboratory for The Psychology Department of Grinnell College that serves children ages 3-5. It is licensed by the State of Iowa Department of Human Services. Grinnell College Preschool provides a learning environment that helps children become lifelong learners and prepares them for their next school environment. The Grinnell College Preschool offers three sessions: Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 8:30-12:00 am, Tuesday/Thursday from 9:00-11:30 am and Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 1:00-3:30 pm.

### **Grinnell-Newburg Preschool**

*Contact Persons:* Sarah Seney ([sarah.seney@grinnell-k12.org](mailto:sarah.seney@grinnell-k12.org)), Fairview Elementary Principal, Sharon Boggess ([sharon.boggess@grinnell-k12.org](mailto:sharon.boggess@grinnell-k12.org)), Administrative Assistant, 641.236.2780

*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 for 3 year olds on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00-11:00 am and afternoon sessions for 4 year olds on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 12:00-3:00 pm

## **In-Home Childcare Providers**

### **Childcare Resource and Referral**

*Contact Person:* Brenda O'Halloran, 641.820.1923, [bohallowan@orchardplace.org](mailto:bohallowan@orchardplace.org), [www.iowaccrr.org](http://www.iowaccrr.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 childcare 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**

#### **Grinnell Area Arts Council – Studio 6 Afterschool Arts Program**

*Contact Person:* Kaitie In, 641-236-3203, [Katie@grinnellarts.org](mailto:Katie@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. There is also a free Friday session for students who register on a first come, first serve basis. 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 Whisenand, Director, [grinnelldaycare@windstream.net](mailto:grinnelldaycare@windstream.net), 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-4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Recreation Programs**

#### **City of Grinnell Recreation Programs**

*Contact Person:* Kelly Johnson-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. The GARC (Grinnell Area Recreational

Center) gym is available for use October-April and the Ahrens Family Center gym and pool are available to rent.

### **Steppin Out Dance Studio**

*Contact: Melissa Budinich, 927 Main Street, 641.259.2181, [steppinoutdance.us](http://steppinoutdance.us)*

*Description of Program:* Steppin Out Dance Studio provides lessons in ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, pointe, lyrical, contemporary, modern, jazz-pom, clogging, drill team prep, cheer, acrobatic dance, and tumbling for children/adults ages 3 and older in the Monroe, Pella, Grinnell, Prairie City, Otley, Knoxville, Reasnor, Sully, Lynnville, and Newton areas.

### **Michelle's Dance Academy**

*Contact: Michelle Andrews, [mdance@iowatelecom.net](mailto:mdance@iowatelecom.net), 641.236.9337*

*Description of Program:* Michelle's Dance Academy provides dance apparel as well as classes in tap, ballet, jazz, clogging, pointe, contemporary, and hip hop for children/adults ages 3 and older.

### **Prairie Fire Gymnastics and Athletic Center**

*Contact Person:* Diana Strayer or Jeri Roland, 641.236.1438, [pfgymnastics.wix.com/prairiefire](http://pfgymnastics.wix.com/prairiefire)

*Description of Program:* The Center offers classes in parent/toddler gymnastics, preschool gymnastics, general gymnastics, women's recreational gymnastics, women's competitive gymnastics, men's recreational gymnastics, men's competitive gymnastics, tumbling, adult fitness instruction, open gym time, and birthday parties.

Prepared by Jessica Kite, School Readiness Taskforce Coordinator, Grinnell AmeriCorps Partnership, June 2016, (Updated 6-6-2017)