

TORRINGTON COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

Torrington's total population: 35,202

12% of Torrington's population is comprised of children ages birth to 8

Number of households in Torrington: 14, 743

9% are single parent households
- Census 2000

Torrington Economics

- 25% of children under age 19 in Torrington are living at 200% below the federal poverty level
- 24% of children under age 18 in Torrington live in single parent households. Nearly 19% are households of single mothers
- 64% of children under age 6 in Torrington have both parents working
- Torrington ranks 145 out of 169 towns, 1 being best, of number of children receiving Temporary Family Assistance

Public Safety

- Number of arrests in Torrington:
1999—1,538
2003—1,629
- Rate of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect in Torrington:
2001—142
2002—90
2003—91
2004—98
2005—147

Early Childhood Education

- 79% of Torrington children entering Kindergarten have had a preschool "experience"
- There are 68.7 preschool slots per 100 children in Torrington
- Parents surveyed report a desire for **more high quality** child care services
- Parents surveyed and community input reveal:
 - a need for **more affordable** child care
 - parents need **support and information** as their children transition from pre-K to Kindergarten

Health and Wellness

- 78% of children in grades K-12 in Torrington schools did not pass all 4 components of the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment in 2004-2005
- The Community Food Security Report ranks Torrington 126 out of 129, 1 being best
- Torrington is ranked 158 out of 169, 1 being best, in availability of transportation to food supply
- The number of women in Torrington not receiving adequate prenatal care is **almost twice** the statewide figure. (In 2003, out of 362 births, 101 Torrington mothers had inadequate care)



ACTION STEPS FOR LEGISLATORS

- Become knowledgeable about issues that affect young children by allocating both staff and research resources.
- Vote to support bills that address Torrington's early care and educational needs.
- Encourage a regional approach to issues that affect young children and their families by contacting the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

ACTION STEPS FOR PARENTS, CAREGIVERS AND CONCERNED CITIZENS

- Become involved in the Torrington Early Childhood Collaborative.
- Register to vote at Torrington's City Hall located at 140 Main Street.
- Become involved in your community by attending the following:

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Where: City Hall
When: 1st and 3rd Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Where: Torrington High School Media Center
When: 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m.

- Contact your state senator and state representatives and urge them to support efforts to improve the lives of young children.
- Partner with local schools and early care centers.
- Enhance your child's listening skills and help to develop their love of reading by taking a trip to the Library.
- Discuss nutrition and health guidelines for your child with your pediatrician.



ACTION STEPS FOR BUSINESSES

- Work with the local Chamber of Commerce to find out how your business can donate resources to fulfill early care and educational needs.
- Work with local and state officials to support workforce development.
- Review your flextime policy needs with respect to parental needs.

IMPORTANT LOCAL CONTACTS

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| • TECC | 489-8552 |
| • Torrington Mayor's Office | 489-2228 |
| • Registrar of Voters – Democrat | 489-2226 |
| • Registrar of Voters – Republican | 489-2227 |
| • Superintendents of Schools | 489-2327 |
| • Torrington Library | 489-6684 |
| • Litchfield Hills Council of Elected Officials 42 North Street Goshen, CT 06756 | 491-9884 |
| • Connecticut Conference of Municipalities 900 Chapel Street New Haven, CT 06510-2807 | 203-498-3000 |
| • Senate Republicans | 800-842-1421 |
| • Senate Democrats | 800-842-1420 |
| • State of Connecticut website | www.ct.gov |

TECC is committed to ensuring the success of all of Torrington's children, ages birth to 6, through public policy and advocacy, parent empowerment, quality care and education, and successful transitions from pre-K to Kindergarten.



“When my son was entering Kindergarten, I remember at the orientation simply sitting down in the chair and crying. My son was supposed to spell his name and find it in the room with 20 other students. I was not prepared for what my child was supposed to know.”

TECC recognizes that parents and children alike may feel unprepared by their lack of knowledge on what is expected when a child enters school.



“He was also expected to read books that I felt he was not ready for at the time.”

TECC recognizes that every child develops at his or her own pace.

“I had not put either of my children in any type of preschool because I am a stay at home mother.”

TECC recognizes that stay at home parents, grandparents and other caregivers need support and resources on early childhood.



“Thanks to support and resources at my children’s school I was better prepared when my daughter was ready to enter school.”

TECC recognizes that parent leadership and advocacy skills are enhanced when partnering with the community.

For more detailed information on TECC, please contact us at:

**Torrington Early
Childhood Collaborative**
68 Church Street
Torrington, CT 06790
860-489-8552
fax 860-489-2577

Become involved in the Torrington tradition of discovering every child.

**Source: TECC Community
Status Report 2006**

TECC Collaborating Agencies:
Brooker Memorial, Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, Children’s Discovery Center, Department of Children and Families, Department of Social Services, Early Head Start, EDUCATION CONNECTION, Family Resource Center, Family Strides, Inc., Head Start, Morris Foundation Early Childhood Partnership, Northwest Connecticut YMCA, Torrington Child Care Center, Torrington City Council, Torrington Library, Torrington Parents, Torrington Public Schools, Torrington Residents

TECC

TORRINGTON EARLY CHILDHOOD COLLABORATIVE

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

