



# Neil Hellman Preschool

Laying the groundwork for building self-confidence and success in later learning for children ages 3–5

## Early Learning Center

125 Bigelow Avenue  
Schenectady, NY 12304  
518.292.5510

## Kris Youmans

Chief Education Officer &  
Superintendent  
518.369.6913  
Kris.Youmans@nrfs.org

## Sharon Hutchinson-Jones

Executive Program Director  
Early Learning Center  
518.292.5510, ext. 5539  
Sharon.HutchinsonJones@nrfs.org

## Renee Kingsley

Program Director  
Neil Hellman Preschool  
518.292.5510, ext. 5537  
Renee.Kingsley@nrfs.org

The Early Learning Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. with limited availability for 7:30 a.m.–8:00 a.m. care

## Getting Started

For day care or universal prekindergarten services, call or visit the Early Learning Center. Special education and early intervention services are accessed through the school system or Health Department respectively, dependent on child's age. Preventative child care and subsidized child care is accessed through Schenectady County Department of Social Services.

*These services are provided by Northern Rivers Family of Services and member agencies.*

**NORTHERN  
RIVERS**

Neil Hellman Preschool is a multiservice early childhood center for children ages 3–5, which includes preschool special education, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, social work services, preventative childcare with and without social work, psychological services, subsidized day care, and universal prekindergarten.

## Services

Program staff help parents evaluate and forecast their children's developmental needs by employing screening and educational activities in the center. Children determined to have developmental or attachment deficits are referred for professional evaluation and, if deemed appropriate, intervention.

- Licensed practical nurse on-site
- Day care, both self-paid and county subsidized
- Two meals and one snack, prepared on site, served daily; a nutritionist reviews the menus and the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) oversees the kitchen and meal service
- Large gym and large fenced play areas on-site
- Special education services onsite including speech, physical therapy, occupational therapy, counseling, and social work

## Benefits

- Increased school readiness and early literacy skills
- Preschool special education services
- On-site health screenings and developmental screenings ensure needs are met
- Decreased out-of-home placements for preventative families

## Getting Started

Children ages 3–5 can attend the preschool for \$225 per week. Other families are referred through several local school districts and Schenectady County Department of Social Services.

## The Northern Rivers Difference

We work with every youth and family in our care to provide person-centered, client-driven services that helps everyone in our educational programs work toward meaningful goals and achieve success. With small class sizes, a culture based on respect, and our use of hands-on, alternative, and experiential teaching methods in conjunction with traditional traditional instruction, we do everything in our power to ensure student success.

Northern Rivers is guided by a set of universally accepted principles that guide the actions of every member of our family. We organize these values through the acronym **HOPE**:

**Honor:** To help others is the highest calling; we strive to do what is right for those in our care.

**Optimism:** We believe things can get better if we work together, aim higher, and set meaningful goals.

**Progress:** Every day provides an opportunity to improve, and we promise to continue striving.

**Excellence:** We hold ourselves to the highest standards, because our communities deserve the best from us.

