

Washington University in St. Louis Student Parent Guide 2016-2017

Note: The purpose of this guide is to provide information for new student-parents. Information compiled in the resource guide was obtained from various resources. The list of businesses and programs are not exhaustive. The guide does not discredit businesses and programs not listed that may offer the same services. Washington University in no way endorses the businesses and programs that are listed in this guide.

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WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY RESOURCES/PROGRAMS

Health Insurance The Habib Health and Wellness Center is pleased to announce that they are partnering with United Healthcare Student Resources to provide the Student Health Insurance Plan for the 2016-2017 academic year for full-time undergraduate & graduate students and their dependents. Contact Brown School of Social Work Financial Aid office for more information. If you have another form of health insurance, you make waive the school's health insurance. For more information, go to <https://shs.wustl.edu/Insurance/Pages/Waiver-Process.aspx>.

Lactation/Nursing Rooms

An infant nursing room is located on the 3rd Floor of Hillman Hall. For more information about other lactation centers located throughout the Danforth, North, West, and Med campus, visit https://hr.wustl.edu/work_life/Pages/InfantNursingRooms.aspx.

University Affiliated Day Care

WU Family Learning Center is managed by Bright Horizons Family Solutions and offers exceptional, high quality childcare for children ages six weeks to six years. This childcare facility is designed to cater to the diverse families of faculty, staff, students, and contractors. Full-time and part-time care is offered at the Family Learning Center. For more information, contact 314-935-3272 or visit www.childcare.wustl.edu.

University City Children's Center is a diverse early learning center for children six weeks to six years of age. Contact 314-726-0148 or www.uccc.org.

Washington University Nursery School primary purpose is to provide the highest quality preschool program for children 2 years and 7 months to 5 years of age. The nursery school also serves as a site for research in child development and early childhood teacher training. Contact 314-935-7249 or <https://nurseryschool.wustl.edu/>.

Family Friendly/Childcare Policy

*Ph.D. students on New Child Leave are eligible for relief from TA or RA duties for up to 34 working days while they receive their normal stipend payments. Additional time off without pay for up to a full semester will ordinarily be granted by the Graduate School if approved by the student's Department. http://graduateschool.wustl.edu/prospective_students/family-friendly/new-child-leave-policy

*The Washington University Child Day Care Subsidy is designed to help financially stressed Washington University Ph.D. students meet the costs of child day care at licensed facilities while they pursue Ph.D. degrees. <http://graduateschool.wustl.edu/child-day-care-subsidy-application>

Family Friendly Campus Activities

Athletic Complex 314-935-4619 or www.bearssports.wustl.edu

Kemper Art Museum 314-935-4523 or www.kemperartmuseum.wustl.edu
Ibby Danforth Butterfly Garden 314-935-5000 or <https://wustl.edu/about/campuses/danforth-campus/butterfly-garden/>

Additional Resources

Government-subsidized health insurance for low-income families:

MO Healthnet for Kids <http://dss.mo.gov/mhk/>

La Leche League is an international, nonprofit, nonsectarian, organization dedicated to providing support, encouragement, information, and education to women who want to breastfeed. Contact 314-424-3900 or www.lll.org

Graduate Students with Children is a Washington University student group for graduate and professional students who have children. Contact Heidi Lim at h.lim@wustl.edu for more information.

PROGRAMS

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) organization that fosters one to one mentoring by pairing a child with a caring adult mentor supported by Big Brother Big Sister staff. The program is free for participants. For more information, contact BBBS at 314-361-5900 or www.bbbsemo.org.

Boys & Girls Club (BGCSTL) provides after-school, teen, sports, and summer programs to youth ages 6 to 18 in the St. Louis area while also providing a safe place for children to learn and grow. As a state licensed childcare provider, they can offer several different payment options including sliding fee scale or payments by Missouri's Division of Social Services. (314) 335-8000 or www.bgcstl.org.

COCA – Center of Contemporary Arts. Experience a wide range of classes in theatre, music, and dance for children and adults. Located in University City, COCA also offers theatre events, gallery exhibitions, and outreach programs. 314-725-6555 or www.cocastl.org

Community Music School. Affiliated with Webster University, the Community Music School offers a variety of music classes, including Early Childhood Music Education Programs and Suzuki violin. 314-968-5939 or www.webster.edu/cms

Cooking Classes. If your youngster is a budding chef, there are cooking classes at COCA, Dierberg's (www.dierbergs.com), Schnucks (www.schnuckscooks.com) and the Kitchen Conservatory (www.kitchenconservatory.com or 314-862-2665).

Early Childhood Education Centers. Many school districts maintain early childhood education centers, with courses and playtimes for parents and children. Families from outside

the school district may participate in activities. Some districts with ECECs include Kirkwood (314-213-6136), Brentwood (314-262-8521), Parkway (314-415-6950), Clayton (314-854-6900), Ladue (314-993-5724), University City (314-721-2965), Webster Groves (314-963-6440), and Afton-Lindbergh (314-729-2434). Contact the school district directly to find out if they have an Early Childhood Education Center.

Gifted Resource Council. This non-profit agency offers classes, special courses, and activities for bright children age three through grade 9. 314-962-5920 or www.giftedresourcecouncil.org

Gymboree Play and Music. Gymboree offers a variety of play, music, art, yoga, and sign language classes for children from birth to 5 years, seven days a week. Families pay a onetime membership fee (waived if you have been a member at another Gymboree) in addition to monthly class fees. Open gym playtime is available to non-members several afternoons a week for a nominal fee. Located in Webster Groves. 314-961-3000 or www.gymboreeclasses.com

Kindermusik. Classes, from birth to 7 years, develop lifelong appreciation of music and movement through this nationally recognized program. www.kindermusik.com

Magic House Classes. Programs. This children's museum has "My First School" for 2½-3½ year-olds and summer camp for school age children. Family programs are offered throughout the year. 314-822-8900 or www.magichouse.org

Parents as Teachers. This state-funded program is often free of charge and available to parents with children through age three. A parent educator will come to your home to teach you how to encourage your child's development. Due to budget constraints, availability of resources may vary between school districts. Please contact your district directly by calling 314-432-4330 or searching for district specific information at www.parentsasteachers.org.

Soccerdome. Soccer for all ages. Located in Webster Groves. 314-962-9248 or www.vettasports.com

St. Louis Family Attractions Card. This free card is available at Dierberg's, Shop 'n Save, and Schnucks and online at www.familyattractionscard.com. It offers free or reduced price admission to attractions such as the Magic House, Missouri Botanical Garden and Butterfly House, as well as discounts for restaurants and hotels.

St. Louis Symphony. The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra offers three concert series for students: Kinder Konzerts (grades K-3), Young People's Concerts (grades 4-6), and Young Adult Concerts (grades 7 and above). 314-533-2500 or www.stlsymphony.org and search under "Community & Education."

Story Times. St. Louis County and City Public Libraries offer story times. Look for details at your local branch, St. Louis City at www.slpl.lib.mo.us, St. Louis County at www.slcl.org, and the Municipal Consortium of Libraries at www.mlc.lib.mo.us. Many libraries have toys, books, and tapes/CDs/DVDs for checkout. Borders and Barnes & Noble also host story times.

Swimming Classes. There are numerous opportunities for swimming classes. Contact your YMCA or community pool. Two community centers with extensive offerings (infant to adult) are Maplewood/Richmond Heights (314-645-1476) and Clayton (314-290-8500). These are also fun pools to visit during open swim hours. In the summer months, several community pools offer “Toddler Time”, such as Kirkwood, Webster Groves and Des Peres Pools. Some pools are only available to residents or guests of residents. Des Peres Lodge (314-835-6150) has Water Waddlers pool time during the winter and summer for kids under 6; non-residents are welcome.

Theater. St. Louis provides many opportunities for live theater. Each summer, the Muny has one musical that is oriented toward younger audiences. Several children’s theaters include:

COCA (see above)	314-725-6555
Edison Theater Ovarions for Young People, Washington University http://edisontheatre.wustl.edu	314-935-6543
St. Louis Family Theatre Series, Florissant	314-921-5678

Tumbling, Gymnastics, Art and Dance: While there are many opportunities to attend classes, the following are recommended by our students (especially for younger children):

All-American Gymnastics, Olivette http://allamericangymnastics.net/	314-426-2496
Arts in Motion (classes start age 2) www.artsinmotion-stl.com	314-968-4583
COCA (see above)	314-725-6555
Gymboree Play and Music (see above)	314-961-3000
The Little Gym, Creve Coeur (and other locations) www.thelittlegym.com	314-439-1100
St. Louis Gymnastics Centre, Webster Groves www.stlouisgymcentre.com	314-968-9494
Team Central Gymnastics Academy, Maryland Heights (other locations) www.teamcentral.org/	314-291-0101
Yucandu Crafts for Kids, Webster Groves www.yucandu.com	314-963-4400

PLAYGROUNDS AND RECREATION

The St. Louis area is known for its many beautiful parks and wonderful playgrounds. We cannot list them all, but here are some of our favorites. Check your neighborhood for others and visit <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/parks/parks/browse-parks/index.cfm> for information on all the St. Louis City parks and <http://www.stlouisco.com/ParksandRecreation> for St. Louis County parks.

Barnes-Jewish Hospital Playground – St. Louis City

Directions: Located south of Barnes-Jewish Hospital next to the main parking garage.

Description: This is a sunny park with swings and two playgrounds. Great for children of all ages. Park at a metered lot or the parking garage.

Blackburn Park – Webster Groves

Directions: Take I-44 west, exit at Elm and go south. Left on Glendale Rd., left on Edgar Rd., and the park is on the right. Description: This is a shaded park with trails, picnic areas, and play equipment with a sand/rock table for young and older climbers. Good for walking dogs, a picnic, a sunset walk, or a game of tennis. A pavilion can be reserved for gatherings. 314-963-5600.

Carondelet Park – St. Louis (South City)

Directions: South Grand Blvd. and Loughborough Ave. Description: This beautiful park is the 3rd largest in St. Louis. Great for jogging and dogs. The playground is new with water features. There are playing fields, horseshoe pits, picnic shelters, and ponds with a boathouse, ducks and fishing. In the summer, it hosts a concert series on Sunday nights. <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/parks/parks/browse-parks/viewpark.cfm?parkID=5>

Central Park – Chesterfield

Directions: Located just west of the Chesterfield Mall, 16365 Lydia Hill Dr. Description: Central Park is a 38 acre park that includes the Chesterfield Family Aquatic Park, a playground with areas designed for younger and older children, swing set, benches, pavilion, picnic tables, and umbrellas. <http://www.chesterfield.mo.us/central-parkinfo.html>

Deer Creek Park – Maplewood

Directions: Located on the west side of Hanley Blvd./Laclede Station Rd., south of Manchester. Description: This park has play fields and a playground geared towards older children. In the summer, there is a Sno-cone stand and lots of sand for digging.

Demun Park – Clayton

Directions: From the Clayton/Skinker intersection, travel west on Clayton and turn right (north) onto Demun Ave. (at the corner of Southwood) Description: There are 2 playgrounds available,

one for toddlers and the other for older children. A low iron fence with a gate keeps youngsters safe from traffic. The winding walk around the central raised garden is a great path for little ones to ride their bicycles.

Des Peres Park – Des Peres

Directions: Located at the corner of Manchester Rd. and Ballas Rd., just east of I-270.

Description: This park has a playground with a soft rubber surface. There are two park areas: one for toddlers and one for older children. An imitation rock-climbing wall is in the area for older children. There is a sprinkler in the summer and a nicely paved fitness/walking path around a duck-filled lake.

Faust Park – Chesterfield

Directions: 15185 Olive Blvd. Take I-64/Hwy 40 west to exit 19B to merge onto Olive Blvd. and travel about a mile and a half. Description: This park is right across the parking lot from the Butterfly House and an indoor carousel. (Both the Butterfly House and carousel are closed on Mondays.) It has a great playground area with a “sponge surface” for toddlers on up. There are faux rocks and a rock wall that older children love to climb on. Picnic tables are located on the outskirts of the playground area.

Fenton City Park – Fenton

Directions: Take I-44 west of I-270 to Bowles Ave., turn left on Bowles, left on S. Highway Dr., and right on Larkin Williams. Go one and a half miles to the entrance to the park.

Description: This park has three playgrounds, shelters, a paved path, and numerous sports fields. A golf course is located across the street. Call 636-343-0067 to reserve shelters.

Forest Park Dennis and Judith Jones Variety Wonderland – St Louis City

Directions: Enter Forest Park and park across from the visitor center Description: A half-acre playground designed for children of ALL ages complete with climbing structures, slides, swings, see-saws, water features and a secret garden. Picnic tables are located north of the playground behind the visitor center and there is a café with bathrooms inside.

<http://www.forestparkforever.org/experience/destinations-2/playgrounds/>

Forest Park Turtle Park – St Louis City

Directions: The park is at Oakland and Tamm avenues, on the south side of Forest Park just across Highway 40. Description: Turtle Playground features three large and four small turtles and a snake to climb on. There are also swings. This is a good place to visit on your way to the zoo.

Francis Park – St. Louis (South City)

Directions: Take I-44 to Jamieson and head south; after you pass the traffic light at Chippewa, turn left at the first stop sign (Eichelberger); go one block and turn left on Donovan. The park is on the right down the hill.

Description: This is a nice shady park with terrific equipment, especially for younger kids. The surface is made of tiny rocks, so you may want to avoid sandals. Free concerts in the summer.

Heman Park – University City

Directions: Located off Olive Street Rd., near Midland.

Description: This is a large park with a pool, good tennis courts, children’s play equipment, and loads of open space.

Kirkwood Park – Kirkwood

Directions: Take Kirkwood Rd. (Lindbergh Blvd.) to Adams Rd. and head west; the playground is behind the tennis courts.

Description: This large, very shady park has two soft surface playground areas, lots of swings, and a great sandbox area. In the summer a sprinkler is turned on, so bring swimsuits and towels. There is a lake with ducks as well as picnic areas and a walking path.

Laumeier Sculpture Park – Sunset Hills

Directions: From I-44 west, exit Lindbergh and go south. About a mile down turn right onto Rott Rd. and follow the signs to the park at the Main North Entrance on your left or continue on Rott Rd. to park at the West Entrance where the Children’s Sculpture Garden is located.

Description: This park is very dog friendly. It has wood-chip and dirt trails through wooded area with sculptures along the way. The trails are great when the heat rises, especially in the morning. Trails are not good for strollers, but there is an upper area with cement paths and sculptures that is fine. There is no playground equipment although kids can climb on the sculptures in the Children’s Sculpture Garden and run in the open fields. Bathroom and water fountain are only on upper walking area. The park frequently has special events and music during the summer. www.laumeier.com/

Larson Park – Webster Groves

Directions: From I-44, exit Elm north. Turn left on Lockwood Ave., right on N. Rock Hill Rd., left on W. Kirkham, left on Denver. Park is on the corner of Denver and Clairmont.

Description: This park has lots of playground equipment, including a small climber with slides for younger children and a larger climber for older children. It also has a climbing wall, restrooms, and a pavilion.

Lewis Park – University City

Directions: Delmar at Yale Description: This park has a nice pond and playground equipment for big kids and little kids. There are woodchips under the playground.

Lindenwood Park – St. Louis (South City)

Directions: Located off of Jamieson between Lindenwood and Pernod Description: There is a big playground (lots of shade), picnic area, and tennis courts.

Memorial Park – Brentwood

Directions: Take Brentwood Blvd several blocks south of I-64/Hwy 40 and turn left on Strassner. The park is located across the street from the YMCA.

Description: Lots of space to run and play, with two playgrounds (one for older children and one for younger), swings, and a sheltered picnic area.

Minnie HaHa - Sunset Hills

Directions: 801 Old Gravois Rd 63127 Description: Minnie Ha Park includes two shelter areas, two restrooms, one canopy area, over a mile of asphalted walking trails (great for strollers!), and a scenic overlook on the Meramec River with a shelter.

Mooney Park – University City

Directions: East of Hanley and north of Delmar on Jackson Ave. Description: This is a very shady park with swings and two playgrounds, one for toddlers and one for older kids who are good climbers. The playground area is set back from the street, with several picnic tables. No bathrooms.

Oak Knoll Park – Clayton

Directions: The park entrance is off of Big Bend just north of Clayton Rd. Description: This is a shady park with lots of wonderful equipment for all ages (no swings). The surface is made of shredded tires and is very soft—kids dig in it like sand so you may want to bring toys.

Bathrooms inside building are not always available.

Queeny Park – Ballwin

Directions: 550 Weidman Rd. Take Manchester Rd. west of I-270 then north on Weidman Rd. The park is one mile ahead on the right. Description: The playground is designed for older children with climbing equipment and tunnels. A paved trail and a public pool are also available. The park offers hiking, horseback, and cross-country ski trails, hayrides in the fall, and indoor and outdoor ice skating rinks in the winter. It also hosts the American Kennel Club dog museum (art museum).

Route 66 Park

Directions: Off I-44; 97 North Outer Rd., Suite 1 Eureka, MO 63025 Description: Located along the original Route 66 corridor, the nearly 419-acre park is a boon to those who want to enjoy nature. Excellent opportunities to picnic, exercise, birdwatch or study nature. The park bounds with more than 40 types of birds and a diverse set of trees, plants and animals. Picnic sites are scattered beneath the shade trees. Level walking, bicycling and equestrian trails are located throughout the park. Great for family bike rides!

Schroeder Park – Manchester

Directions: Take Manchester Rd. west of I-270 to Woods Mill Rd. (Hwy 141), go south for approximately 1/2 mile, then take a sharp right onto Old Meramec Station Rd. Go straight at the four-way stop into the park.

Description: One playground with a sandbox is for young toddlers, one for older children.

Shaw Park – Clayton

Directions: Take Brentwood Blvd. about 1 mile north of I-64/Hwy 40 to Shaw Park Dr. Turn left and stay to the right to get to the parking lot.

Description: This is a large, very shady park with lots of picnic tables and shelters. There are two playgrounds: one is shaded and on a rubber surface; the other is larger on a mulch surface with a sand area and swings, but has less shade.

Stacy Park – Olivette

Directions: Located between I-170 and Lindbergh Blvd. off Olive. From Olive, turn south onto Old Bonhomme Rd.

Description: There are several playground structures for all ages of children, swings, a large sheltered picnic area, and a paved walking trail. Free concerts in the summer.

Sugar Creek Park – Des Peres

Directions: From I-270, exit Dougherty Ferry and head west. The park is on your right.

Description: A nice sunny park with a playground, swings, picnic areas, and a paved walking trail. A sprinkler is on during the summer, so bring towels.

Suson Park – South County

Directions: I-270 south to Tesson Ferry Rd. Turn right and go about three miles (watch for the McDonald's). Turn left on Wells Rd. The park is on the right.

Description: This park has a free petting zoo open daily from 10:30 am - 5:00 pm April - September and 10:30 am - 3:00 pm October - March. There is a large man-made pond for catch-and-release and ducks (not able to feed). The playground is designed for older children. The park is great for picnics.

Tilles Park – Ladue

Directions: Corner of McKnight and Litzsinger, south of I-64/Hwy 40.

Description: There is a nice walking/exercise path around the park. The playground is amazing and for children of all ages and abilities. There is a large play structure that little ones can run around, but not access the area for older children. It's wheelchair accessible, even within parts of the play structure. There is a huge water play area, a large sandbox, and swings. There is also a music making section with wooden xylophones, drums, and rattles. A beautiful drivethrough display of festive lights is an attraction that is available Thanksgiving to New Year's Day.

Tower Grove Park – St. Louis (South City)

Directions: Located between Kingshighway and Grand (at Arsenal).

Description: This park has two play structures (one for older children and one for younger children), a wading fountain, a duck pond, and walking trails. In the summer there are free weekly music/theater shows for children. The Farmer's Market is open on Saturday mornings. Pavilions can be rented for group events. The Piper Palm House is a historic conservatory that has a wonderful brunch on Sunday mornings.

CHILDCARE RESOURCES

Choosing a Babysitter

Find sitters by talking to friends and calling local schools, colleges and nanny services. Your place of worship, if you have one, may also be an excellent place to find sitters. Other resources include:

Nanny services often offer babysitting services.

Nursing Schools – Most of these schools have an area for posting for babysitting services and requests. A few allow you to fax your posting, and they will post it for you. Below are contact phone numbers.

UMSL College of Nursing	314-516-6066
Chamberlain College of Nursing	314-991-6200
Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes Jewish College	314-454-7055
Lutheran (Medical Center) School of Nursing	314-577-5850
St. Louis University School of Nursing	314-977-8900

DAY CARE

As in many cities, infant care fills up fast, so it is important to register for a spot at multiple centers as soon as possible; there is often a waiting list.

Missouri Division of Family Services Child Care Licensing Unit will provide current licensing information for daycare centers. Contingent upon income, a childcare subsidy may reduce the final cost of childcare. 573-751-2450

The Child Day Care Association compiles a list of in-house daycare providers as well as daycare centers in the area you specify. If you are a Washington University employee, this list is free: info@chilcaresl.org 314-531-1412

Childcare Solutions, Inc. (now part of TLC for kids) provides full-time, part-time, summer, temporary newborn and group care referrals. www.tlcforkids.com 314-725-5660

St. Louis Children's Hospital Child Development Center is available to anyone affiliated with the Barnes-Jewish or Washington University. Waiting lists are common, but the center offers flexibility and a discount for Barnes and Washington University employees.
 (Newstead) 314-454-4700 (Clayton) 314-362-0777

St. Louis City

Developmental Child Care Center 314-645-1211

Brentwood

Brentwood Christian Childcare Center 314-962-0537
 (www.brentwoodchristianchildcare.com)

Elaine Rosi Academy for Children 314-968-0515

Chesterfield

Jewish Community Center -Fox Building (non-denominational) 314-442-3456

Clayton

Clayton Child Center Preschool 314-727-2643

Clayton Child Center (infant/toddler) 314-726-0440

The Clayton Family Center 314-854-6900

First Congregational Church 314-721-5060

Creve Coeur/Ladue/Olivette

JCC Early Childhood Center 314-442-3107

Deutsch Early Childhood Center (Temple Israel) 314-432-8076

Shirlee Green Preschool at Shaare Emeth (Jewish, Reform) 314-569-0048

The Goddard School 314-677-1414

St. Louis

B'nai Ammona Early Childhood Center (Jewish, Conservative) 314-576-3688 x127

Epstein Hebrew Academy (Jewish, Orthodox) 314-994-7856

Saul Spielberg Early Childhood Center (United Hebrew, Reform) 314-434-3404

Webster Groves

Berry Patch Professional Child Care Center 314-962-4499

West County

Centre at Conway 314-434-3300

Manchester United Methodist Church Circle of Friends Preschool 636-394-6867

University City

Shaare Zedek Early Childhood Center (Jewish, Conservative) 314-727-2565

University City Children's Center 314-726-0148

University United Methodist Church 314-863-8055

Nanny Services

TLC for Kids – www.tlcforkids.com 314-725-5660

Day Care for Sick Children

Washington University has partnered with Bright Horizons Family Solutions to offer employees sick child back-up coverage options for up to 20 days of care during the year. You must register your family with the service prior to using it. For more information, see the “Back-Up Care” link on the Wash U Human Resources website <http://medschoolhr.wustl.edu> or contact HR for more information (314-362-7916).

Other sources of childcare for sick children include:

Children's Home Society of St. Louis <http://chsmo.org/> 314-968-2350

(ONLY for children with developmental disabilities)

Childcare Solutions, Inc. (part of TLC for Kids) 314-725-5660

www.tlcforkids.com

Parents Day Out Programs (PDO)

PDO's are popular childcare options. Run through many of the Protestant churches in the area, they are often quite affordable and open to non-members. Check with churches in your area for more options. Some Early Childhood Educational Centers also offer PDOs.

Bonhomme Presbyterian Church (Chesterfield) 636-532-3486

Brentwood Congregational Church 314-962-9966

Brentwood Early Childhood Center 314-262-8521

Central Presbyterian Church (Clayton) 314-727-2777 x145

Circle of Friends Early Childhood Center 636-394-6867

Emmanuel Episcopal (Webster Groves) 314-961-2393

First Presbyterian Church of St. Louis 314-721-4866

The Heights (Richmond Heights Community Center, 2hr max, parent must remain in facility at all times) 314-645-1476

Kirkwood United Methodist Church 314-966-8167

Kirkwood First Presbyterian 314-965-0326 x27

Ladue Chapel 314-993-4771

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church (Brentwood/Webster Groves) 314-968-2360

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (Crestwood) 314-843-8448

St. Peter's Playgroup (110 N. Warson Rd.) 314-993-6774

Webster Groves Presbyterian Church 314-962-9210 x3105

Webster Hills United Methodist Church 314-961-3164 x226

PRESCHOOLS

With the exception of Afton, all St. Louis County school districts offer full- and part-time tuition based preschool to district residents. (See “Schools” for district websites.) Note: Children outside of Clayton may apply to the district; Ferguson-Florissant offers free full-time summer pre-K before kindergarten to those who have not previously attended pre-school.

There are a number of private preschools in the area. Because many have waiting lists, it is strongly suggested that you put your child's name on the lists at schools that interest you. Preregistration often starts in Nov/Dec for the next fall. Even if a list is full, there are often cancellations, so call in the summer to check enrollment status. The waiting list for Washington University's Nursery School can be over one year long; those affiliated with Wash U have priority.

Note: Many preschools also offer daycare for younger children; call and ask!

Brentwood

Brentwood Congregational Church, 2400 South Brentwood Blvd. 314-962-9966
Direct line 314-962-0537

Clayton/Ladue

Centre at Conway, 13725 Conway Rd. (West County) 314-434-3300
PEEPS Preschool (3-4 years) at Central Christian School, 700 S. Hanley 314-727-4535
Clayton Family Center, 301 Gay Ave. 314-854-6900
Clayton Early Childhood Center, 1 Oak Knoll Park 314-725-2325
Ethical Society Nursery School, 9001 Clayton Rd. 314-991-1353
First Congregational Church Preschool, 6501 Wydown Blvd. 314-721-7404
Ladue Chapel Nursery School, 9450 Clayton Rd. 314-993-3993
Ladue Early Childhood Center Preschool, 10601 Clayton Rd. 314-993-5724
Salem Methodist Preschool, 1200 S. Lindbergh Blvd. 314-991-8601
Samuel Church Pre-Kindergarten School, 320 N. Forsyth Blvd. 314-721-5437
St. Michael's Episcopal Nursery School, 6345 Wydown Blvd. 314-721-1502
Forsyth School, 6235 Wydown Blvd. 314-726-4542

Creve Coeur

Countryside Montessori School, 12226 Ladue Rd. 314-434-2821
Hope Montessori Academy, 900 N. Mason Rd. 314-878-1770
Jewish Community Centers Association Preschool 314-432-5700

Kirkwood

Christ Community Lutheran School, 110W Woodbine Ave. 314-822-7774
The Lab School, 514 E. Argonne Dr. 314-822-8282
Eliot Unitarian Chapel Preschool, 216 E. Argonne Dr. 314-821-0982
First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood Preschool, 100 E. Adams 314-965-0326 x27
Kirkwood Early Childhood Center, 100 N. Sappington Rd. 314-213-6136

Kirkwood United Methodist Preschool, 201 W. Adams Ave. 314-966-5223
Villa Di Maria Montessori, 1280 Simmons Ave. 314-822-2601

South County

Casa Dia Montessori, 610 Kinswood Ln. 314-892-4446
Notre Dame Preschool, 320 E. Ripa Ave. 314-633-7029

South City

HopeMark, 6273 Eichelberger St. 314-832-8115
Union Pre-School, 3543 Watson Rd. 314-647-0898

University City

Washington University Nursery School, 6926 Forest Park Pkwy. 314-935-6689
University United Methodist (UUM), 6901 Washington Ave. 314-863-7904

Webster Groves

Ambrose Family Center, 222 W. Ceder Ave. 314-963-6440
Emmanuel Episcopal Church Nursey School, 9 S. Bompart Ave. 314-961-2393
The College School, 7825 Big Bend Blvd. 314-962-9355
Faith Academy of Montessori, 44 N Gore Ave. 314-961-1411
Webster Groves Presbyterian Church Early Childhood Center, 314-962-9210 x3105
45 W Lockwood Ave.

SCHOOLS

In St. Louis, certain public school systems and/or proximity to highly desired private schools greatly affect home values. (Similar homes in various districts can vary by as much as \$300,000.) A high percentage (around 40%) of students in St. Louis City and County school districts attend private schools or pay tuition to attend a school in a district other than where they live. Take this into consideration when looking at neighborhoods. A lot of children may be on the block, but they may attend 2-3 different schools. Even students in “prestigious” public school districts often attend private schools. High quality educations can be found in both public and private schools.

Search Criteria Awareness – When looking at schools, a number of criteria can be used to determine how the schools rate in comparison to others. While some school districts “brag” about low student-to-teacher ratios or high spending per student, this often does not translate to better or inferior districts. Schools with a high number of students with social, physical, and/or learning difficulties may have more teachers per student and spend more money per student.

Testing – The State of Missouri tests all students using the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) system. Generally, schools with higher MAP scores are better schools. Schools within the same district may vary greatly in test scores, with some exceeding averages and others deemed “at risk.” Most high schools concentrate on the ACT (as most state colleges in Missouri prefer ACT scores). Generally, districts with higher ACT scores are better. There are, however, schools that have slightly lower averages because many students take the exam (including those not going on to college) or schools with very high averages because a small number of students take the exam.

School Vacation Calendars – Most schools start their school year in mid-August and finish at the end of May. A few have extended school years with only one summer month off. Many schools have early release or early start days once a month. You may need to take this into consideration if you work and need childcare for elementary students.

Healthcare – If your child has special needs, there are schools that are more aptly suited to teach your child. In fact, some districts have joined together to design a special school district for students with special needs. Few schools have full-time nurses, so if you have a child that may need consistent nursing care or regular medication, you may want to take that into consideration. With parental communication, however, most schools without nurses are great at adapting to and providing care for students with medical needs.

Safety – Like most major cities, there are several St. Louis area schools (public and private) that may not necessarily be as “safe” as others. Crime statistics can be obtained from the district’s police department. In addition, because certified teachers are in abundance in this state, a high number of non-certified teachers at a school may raise red flags. If you’re worried about a child waiting for a bus or walking to school in a neighborhood, you can check out

Missouri's Sex Offender website to see home locations of registered offenders.
www.mshp.dps.missouri.gov/MSHPWeb/PatrolDivisions/CRID/SOR/SORPage.html

Special Programs – Schools vary greatly in programs offered. If you have a particular area of interest for your child(ren), you may want to examine the schools' special programming. For instance, at least two public school districts in the county are nationally recognized for their early childhood programs. There is a nationally known private school for students with learning disabilities, with the aim at helping students overcome their disabilities and enter a mainstream classroom. About one-third of public districts emphasize performing arts, often having early start music instruction in elementary school and nationally recognized bands, orchestras, and theater productions. Most schools have traditional athletic sports, and many also offer competitive sports such as water polo, lacrosse, fencing, alpine skiing, and tennis.

Public School District Information

Whether you have school-aged children, infants, or no children at all, you can learn a lot about the area in which you live by the caliber of the public schools. Although WUMCHA does not make any specific recommendations about school districts, do not hesitate to talk to members about their reasons for district preferences. (For the most part, you will probably find someone preferring each district.) A good resource for comparing districts is the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website: <http://dese.mo.gov/>. In the "School Statistics" section, you can find information on every district in the state.

Do not necessarily think a district you desire is "out of reach" due to high-priced homes or "far away" locations. There are affordable homes for a resident's salary in every district. (You may have to look hard with some, but they are there.) Also, some districts have strange borders. You may find that 85% of the district is over 30 minutes away from the hospital, but a small sliver is near a highway, only a 15-20 minute drive from work. Do not rely solely on zip code searches when looking for a home – almost all districts cover several zip codes.

Transportation – Because of the busier nature of St. Louis streets, most public districts offer free bus service. (Few students in St. Louis county districts walk or ride public transportation to schools.) To increase racial diversity, many of the St. Louis county school districts will provide transportation for minority students to attend their schools and St. Louis City magnet schools will often arrange transportation for non-minority students to attend their schools.

***Parents As Teachers** – The State of Missouri started the national Parents as Teachers (PAT) program for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and children with special needs. It is very active in St. Louis. PAT is affiliated with public school districts, so services/programming varies district-to-district. (You do not have to have a child attending public school to participate in PAT programs.) PAT offers free home visits, services, and screenings (hearing, development, speech) for young children. Many districts offer early childhood programs, activities, parenting seminars and other events (often free of charge). Some districts have indoor discovery centers,

which may be open to their non-residents for a small fee. Because of the benefits and little or no cost, a high percentage of WUMCHA families with young children participate in PAT programs. www.parentsasteachers.org/

St. Louis Public School District - www.slps.org/

The St. Louis Public School District includes 45 elementary schools (including 1 Montessori), 14 middle schools, 2 small high schools, 4 comprehensive high schools and 7 non-traditional high schools (i.e., Magnets, Choice Schools and 1 Career and Job Training high school for special needs adolescents), and 5 alternative schools. Several of the schools in this district have lost accreditation. The District also offers 23 magnet schools with special concentrations, including, visual & performing arts, language, and technology. To increase diversity, attendance is open to non-African-Americans residing in St. Louis County for all grades from kindergarten onwards. Preschool enrollment in the magnet schools is restricted to St. Louis City residents.

St. Louis County School Districts:

<http://www.stlouisco.com/yourgovernment/othergovernmentagencies/countyschooldistricts>

The **Special School District of St. Louis County** is a collaboration among 23 school districts in St. Louis County to serve the needs of students with disabilities. It runs two technical schools (one in south county and one in north county) aimed at providing graduates with a specific trade (e.g., electrician, computer repair, nurses' aide). These technical schools also offer partial enrollment with area high schools, where students take classes at both their home district school and learn technical training. www.ssdmo.org/

School District Websites

District	Website
Afton	www.affton.k12.mo.us/
Bayless	www.baylessk12.org/
Brentwood	www.brentwood.k12.mo.us
Clayton	www.clayton.k12.mo.us
Ferguson-Florissant	www.fergflor.org/pages/Ferguson-Florissant_SD
Hancock Place	www.hancock.k12.mo.us/
Hazelwood	www.hazelwoodschoools.org
Jennings	www.jenningsk12.org
Kirkwood	www.kirkwoodschoools.org
Ladue	www.ladueschools.net
Lindbergh	www.lindberghschools.ws
Maplewood-Richmond Heights	www.mrhdsd.org
Mehlville	www.mehlilleschooldistrict.com
Normandy	www.normandy.schoolinsites.com/
Parkway	www.pkwy.k12.mo.us/
Pattonville	www.psdr3.org
Ritenour	www.ritenour.k12.mo.us/
Riverview Gardens	www.rgsd.k12.mo.us/
Rockwood	www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/
St. Louis City	www.slps.org/
Special School District of St. Louis County	http://www.ssdmo.org/
University City	www.ucityschools.org/
Valley Park	www.vp.k12.mo.us/
Webster Groves	www.webster.k12.mo.us/
Wellston	www.schoolmap.org/District/Wellston/

Private School District Information

St. Louis has the highest number of Catholic schools in the nation. There are also a number of other religious-oriented private schools including, Jewish, Lutheran and inter-denominational Christian schools.

Private schools that are not affiliated with any religious entity are also in abundance. Most of these are affiliated as the “Independent Schools of St. Louis”. St. Louis also has quite a few boarding schools. The highest concentration of private schools is in western St. Louis County.

Many private schools have additional fees/fundraising/expected donations in addition to regular tuition. Most have uniform requirements as well. Since private schools are a popular option, you will often find uniform basics (navy and khaki shorts, pants, and skirts) at discount and department stores.

Private Schools

The following two websites cover most (but not all) private schools in the St. Louis area:

Independent Schools – www.isacs.org

Archdiocese of St. Louis Catholic Education – www.archstl.org/education/

Homeschooling Information

There are several resources available for families who homeschool their children:

Homeschooling in Missouri www.homeschoolcentral.com/support/missouri_homeschool.htm

The greatest percentage of homeschooling families reside in West County – www.wcche.org

An annual St. Louis homeschooling conference – www.stlhomeschoolexpo.com/

Sports Programs for Homeschoolers – www.orgsites.com/mo/stlchristianhomesports/

Missouri K-12 Virtual Instruction Program (MoVIP) - This program is open to all students, private, public, and homeschooled. MoVIP students are guided through their courses over the Internet by Missouri certified teachers. To assure student success with virtual learning, a variety of web-based, technology resources (streaming audio and video, computer animations, email, newsgroups, chat rooms, bulletin boards, digital portfolios) are provided. Teachers communicate with students and parents on a regular basis via phone, email, online chats, instant messaging, and discussion forums. There is no cost to the student or district if there are state-funded seats available and the student is not full-time with a Missouri public school. A tuition paid program is available for students to take MoVIP courses that are not state-funded.

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum/movip/>

SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES

Missouri's Early Intervention Program, for children aged birth to 3, is called First Steps. At the time you decide to participate, a service coordinator is assigned to work with you and evaluate your child. Service Coordination is provided by someone from the Bureau of Special Health Care Needs or St. Louis Regional Center. Regional Center is recommended, if you are given the option. Your service coordinator will help you find providers in your community and assist in obtaining the services your child will need. Families should contact their county First Steps office for more information at 866-583-2392 or visit <https://www.mofirststeps.com/>.

Children three years and older receive services through your home school district. The quality of education and the services offered is different depending on the school district, so investigate your school districts carefully.

The Special School District (SSD) of St. Louis County collaborates with school districts to provide services for students with disabilities. A complete list of early childhood special education (ECSE) sites and contact information is available on the internet: 314-989-8411 or https://www.ssdmo.org/ssd_services/early_childhood.html

There are many family support groups in the St. Louis area specific to your child's diagnosis. Please feel free to call a former WUMCHA member and mother of a child with special needs Lynn Schmidt at 636-536-5283 for help with negotiating the system or recommendations on First Steps providers.