

# Preschool Resources

**East Bay Preschool Directory** <http://www.eastbaypreschools.com/index.htm>

*The **East Bay Preschool Directory** is an informational directory only. It is not a referral agency. Each school listed has an information page.*

**Contra Costa Child Care Council** [www.cocokids.org](http://www.cocokids.org)

1035 Detroit Avenue, Suite 200, Concord, CA 94518, 676-5442

*Services for parents: free referrals for parents looking for child care, free technical assistance on parenting issues by trained counselors, workshops on parenting education, child care subsidy for eligible families, worksite seminars, and nutrition education materials.*

## **Pre-School & Parenting Fair**

If you are looking for a preschool, this is a great event to attend. It is held every year in mid-January.

Pre-School & Parenting Fair

Saturday, January 12, 2007 9 am – noon, FREE admission

Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District and the Pleasant Hill Walnut Creek Mother's Club are proud to present their 10th annual Preschool & Parenting Fair. 40 Preschools will be represented with locations in Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek, Martinez, Concord, Lafayette and Alamo. A myriad of parenting and family resources will also be presented. The fair is held at the Pleasant Hill Community Ctr., 320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill (off Taylor Boulevard, 2 blocks west of Sun Valley Mall).



## **The Mt. Diablo Mother's Club List of Preschools and Child Care Centers**

*Corrections and additions are welcomed. Please contribute the names of schools that we do not have listed and your comments to [sarah@beckerz.com](mailto:sarah@beckerz.com).*

## **CONCORD & CLAYTON**

### **The Barbara Milliff Children's Center**

2191 Kirker Pass Road, Concord, CA 94521, 671-0777

### **Kindercare** (formerly Clayton Children's Center)

6760 Marsh Creek Road, Clayton, CA 94517, 672-0717

*Comment #6 by Julie Mitchell 8/3/05*

*Comment #12 by Amber Schmitt 12/1/07*

### **Clayton Valley Parent Preschool**

1645 West Street, Concord, CA 94521, 680-8770

### **Clayton Valley Presbyterian Children's Center**

1578 Kirker Pass Road, Clayton, CA 94517, 672-0882

Director: Michele Miller

*Comment #11 by Lisa Cloven\* 12/5/07*

**The Concordia School in the Montessori Tradition**

2353 Fifth Ave, Concord, CA 94518, 689-6910

*Comment #1 by Marie Shimoniak 07/28/05*

**First Presbyterian Preschool Center**

1965 Colfax Street, Concord, CA 676-6244

**Loma Vista Parent Participation Preschool**

1266 San Carlos Avenue, Concord, CA 94521, 685-7340, ext. #2771

*Comment #4 by Stephanie Dark\* 07/29/05*

*Comment #10 by Katrina Fehring\* 1/12/06*

**Montessori School of Concord**

3039 Willow Pass Rd., Concord 94519

*Comment #7 by Brenna Shafizadeh\* 8/3/05*

**Pixie Play School**

1797 Ayers Road, Concord, CA 94521, 689-4030

**Walnut Country Preschool**

4498 Lawson Ct., Concord, CA 798-9686

Director: Caryn Borba

## LAFAYETTE

**Burton Valley Preschool**

584 Glenside Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549, 283-6170

**The Child Day School**

1049 Stuart Street, Lafayette, CA, 284-7092

*Comment #3 by Helenna Murray\* 07/28/05*

**Lafayette Nursery School**

979 First Street, Lafayette, CA 94549, 284-2448

**Merriewood Children's Center**

561 Merriewood Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549, 284-2121

**Old Firehouse School**

984 Moraga Road, Lafayette, CA 284-4321

**Temple Isaiah's Gan Ilan**

3800 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, CA 94549, 284-8453

## MARTINEZ

**Childtime**

6635 Alhambra Ave. #300, Martinez, CA 94553, 947-6800

**Forest Hills Preschool**

5834 Alhambra Ave , Martinez, CA 94553, 370 1601  
Marla Watawala, M.S., Program Director/President

**Helping Hands Christian Preschool**

1865 Arnold Drive, Martinez, 229-2975  
*Comment #2 by Jennifer Wygal\* 07/28/05*

**Sunshine House**

4950 Pacheco Blvd, Martinez, CA 94553, 372-8242  
*Comment #5 by Lisa Bonnington 08/03/05*

## PLEASANT HILL

**Baby Steps Infant & Toddler Care**

1641 Oak Park Blvd, Pleasant Hill, CA, 256-9529  
*Comment #8 by Katie Pierceall\* 8/3/05*

**Creative Play Center**

2323 Pleasant Hill Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523, 974-6820

**The Concordia School in the Montessori Tradition**

The main campus is in Concord, but they have a satellite location in the Pleasant Hill - Martinez area.  
2353 Fifth Ave, Concord, CA 94518, 689-6910  
*Comment #1 by Marie Shimoniak 7/28/05*

**Fountainhead Montessori School**

490 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill, CA, 685-2949

**Mary Jane's Preschool**

2902 Vessing Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523, 935-3084

**Peter Pan Preschool**

399 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA, 685-2275

**Play and Learn School**

1898 Pleasant Hill Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 95423, 947-2820

**Priority Pre-School (Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District)**

320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523, 676-5200

**St. Mark's Christian Preschool (St. Mark's Lutheran Church)**

3051 Putnam Blvd., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523, 932-0700

## WALNUT CREEK

**Contra Costa Christian Preschool**

2721 Larkey Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, 934-4964

**Contra Costa Jewish Community Center Preschool**  
2071 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek, CA 94595, 938-7800

**Grace Cooperative Preschool**  
2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek, CA 94595, 935-2100

**Kid Time, Inc.**  
1547 Geary Rd, Pleasant Hill, CA, 930-6550  
*Comment #9 by Katie Pierceall\* 8/3/05*

**Mt. Diablo Co-op Preschool**  
55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, 932-6902

**Pied Piper Preschool**  
2263 Whyte Park Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94595, 932-3816

**St. Paul's Preschool**  
1924 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, 932-6094

**Trinity Lutheran School**  
2317 Buena Vista Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, 935-3362

**Walnut Acres Day Care Center**  
450 Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek, CA, 932-0507

**Walnut Avenue Community Christian Preschool**  
260 Walnut Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94598, 937-7063

**Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church Early Childhood Center**  
1801 Lacassie Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, 935-1669

## **Comments**

*Comments are listed in chronological order.*

*1. Comment by Marie Shimoniak\* 7/28/05*

### **The Concordia School in the Montessori Tradition**

2353 Fifth Ave, Concord, CA 94518, 689-6910

The school likes to know who the referral person is: My name is Marie Shimoniak and my son Evan went to the Martinez campus for 3 years (age 2.5 - 5 years). 2004-05 was his last year. The school is semi-structured for the main part. For kids that like structure it might work well for them. All kids 2.5 - 5 years old are in one class room and if the younger child wants to observe or try what an older child is doing that would be encouraged based on the child's interest. My son's teacher's were very helpful when it came to parenting skills and at times in school they would discuss a topic as part of grace and courtesy lesson. Life skills are encouraged. The child's independence is also encouraged. His teacher who is now on maternity leave did yoga with the kids in the morning to help calm them down. The teacher encouraged the kids to talk when there is a problem and they facilitate this by providing the younger kids with words if they are not old enough to do this for themselves. The schedule for Preschool is Monday - Wednesday 1/2 day or

you can do full time and all day. Drop off is before 8:30 and 11:30 am. Pick up time is anytime from 3 - 6 pm.

*2. Comment by Jennifer Wygal\* 7/28/05*

**Helping Hands Christian Preschool**

1865 Arnold Drive, Martinez, 229-2975

They have a loving environment, reasonable rates, take ages 2 - pre-K and don't have to be potty-trained.

*3. Comment by Helenna Murray\* 7/28/05*

**The Child Day School**

1049 Stuart Street, Lafayette, CA, 284-7092

My daughter has attended the Child Day School in Lafayette since she was 2-1/2 years old. She will be entering their Kindergarten program this fall. My son just started attending the Child Day School in June. The school has programs for 2 yr olds, 3 yr olds, 4 yr olds, pre-K and Kindergarteners. Day care is available all day from 6:45 am to 6:15 pm. The programs are in the morning from 9 am to noon so many children attend half days. Minimum is three days per week. The program is a high scope curriculum and teaches the children life skills (working through conflict, team work, etc) to help them throughout their school years. The teachers are all great, many having been with the school for several years. A long time director left the school just after my daughter started and, after a couple of years with an interim director, a new director has been hired who seems very much in tune with the school's philosophies and very available to the parents. The school tries to foster a sense of community and there is a parent community spirit committee that organizes events to bring the teachers and parents closer together.

The room for 2 yr olds has its own playground. The day is somewhat free flow so the kids can migrate between activities during set periods of time, i.e. the kids come in from the playground for lunch when they are ready to eat so over the lunch hour the kids will migrate from playing outside to eating to playing inside rather than everyone having to come in at one time to eat. The transition to the 3 yr old room can be customized to your child, i.e. once your child is potty trained, if there is space available, they can move up to the next room without having to wait a full year. I found this to be a great feature for my January baby so she could always be with the "older" kids. The teachers of the 2 yr olds were also very helpful in potty training.

During the summer, you can sign the kids up for swim lessons at Sherman Swim School (\$135 for six 1/2 hour lessons - two kids per instructor so very hands on) and the Child Day School handles transportation to and from the lessons. Saturday night babysitting is offered every other Saturday for \$30 for the first kid and \$15 for each sibling. The teachers of the 2 yr olds provide a daily note so you know what your child ate, their bowel movements, when they napped and an activity they did that day (i.e. Jamie played with the boats) to help you talk about the day with your child. For the other programs, the teachers provide a mid year report card with parent conference and, at the end of the school year, a binder showing examples of your child's work in the high scope curriculum (i.e. pictures and samples of your child's work). Wonderful school!

*4. Comment by Stephanie Dark\* 7/29/05*

**Loma Vista Parent Participation Preschool**

1266 San Carlos Avenue, Concord, CA 94521, 685-7340, ext. #2771

My kids did and one still does attend Loma Vista Parent Participation Preschool in Concord. It is part of MDUSD, indeed it has become the model of cooperative preschools MDUSD is opening in many of their lower-income neighborhoods to try to boost the kids' abilities when they enter the public school system.

5. *Comment by Lisa Bonnington 8/3/05*

**Sunshine House**

4950 Pacheco Blvd, Martinez, CA 94553, 372-8242

Clean, friendly environment. My son loves it and so far so do I.

6. *Comment by Julie Mitchell 8/3/05*

**Kindercare** (formerly Clayton Children's Center)

6760 Marsh Creek Road, Clayton, CA 94517, 672-0717

My kids love this school & they have before & after school care if your child takes the bus to Mt. Diablo Elementary.

7. *Comment by Brenna Shafizadeh\* 8/3/05*

**Montessori School of Concord**

3039 Willow Pass Rd., Concord 94519

Cyrus attends the Montessori School of Concord, which is in Concord. We are especially happy with this school. It is a typical Montessori school in that he is learning to be both independent as well as socially responsible, but this school also has some neat activities stressing community involvement. I am happy to talk about this school or the Montessori method in general at any time.

8. *Comment by Katie Pierceall\* 8/3/05*

**Baby Steps Infant & Toddler Care**

1641 Oak Park Blvd, Pleasant Hill, CA, 256-9529

I own and both of my children attended Baby Steps Infant & Toddler Care in Pleasant Hill.

9. *Comment by Katie Pierceall\* 8/3/05*

**Kid Time, Inc.**

1547 Geary Rd, Walnut Creek, CA, 930-6550

My children now both attend Kid Time Inc, and I would love to be a contact for parents because I can't say enough positive things about the school.

10. *Comment by Katrina Fehring\* 1/12/06*

**Loma Vista Parent Participation Preschool**

1266 San Carlos Avenue, Concord, CA 94521, 685-7340, ext. #2771

Just wanted to pass on some info about a great Junior Kindergarten program at Loma Vista adult school in Concord. My son Cole is currently enrolled in the JK program. If your child is turning 5 years old between August and December of this year you may want to consider this great co-op program. It is designed specifically for children who are eligible to start kindergarten but you'd like to give them an extra year. Children attend 4 days/week until Spring when they move to 5 days/week. It is a co-op so parents work in the classroom one day a week. Loma Vista also offers other preschool classes as well. Additionally, the school has allowed the parents with siblings in any of the preschool classes to do a babysitting co-op in one of the empty classrooms right there. For those of you with younger ones like me who would really like to see your child in action at school this is a great option! The address is 1266 San Carlos Ave. and can be hard to find if you haven't been there before. Mrs. Jane Kennedy is the teacher. She is absolutely fabulous! I think registration will be begin in March for this fall. You can reach Mrs. Kennedy at 685-7340, ext. #2771 to arrange a visit now to check it out. Please also feel free to contact me with any questions.

11. *Comment by Lisa Cloven\* 12/5/07*

**Clayton Valley Presbyterian Children's Center**

1578 Kirker Pass Road, Clayton, CA 94517, 672-0882

Director: Michele Miller

Open 6:30am - 6:00pm. Both a pre-school enrichment program in the morning and a child care center for all day attendance. Enrollment for children aged 2 - 5. Very loving and nurturing environment. The two year olds are in their own classroom with a very low student to teacher ratio, like 4-1. Lots of playtime, but also structured curriculum (circle time.) Music and art. Calendar of events and activities every week. Encourages potty training and works with the little ones for success. Once potty trained, three and four year olds are in the second classroom. Fabulous curriculum for learning. Great activities: music and arts. Student to teacher ratio about 6 or 7 to 1. Calendar of events and activities every week. The third classroom is the pre-K program for 4 and 5 year olds which is excellent. Maximum 17 children in the classroom for 3 teachers. Children work in "Centers" just like the kindergarten programs. "Reading Readiness", phonics, writing the alphabet. Homework each week. Calendar of events and activities every week. Additional curriculum currently includes music, science and Spanish every week. Cost is on the high end, but truly believe it is well worth the money spent!

*12. Comment by Amber Schmitt 12/1/07*

**Kindercare** (formerly Clayton Children's Center)

6760 Marsh Creek Road, Clayton, CA 94517, 672-0717

We love their programs. Madeline went to Pre-K and Jordan is now going to pre-school and will go to pre-K next year. They are great with the kids. They have a huge play area, fun events for the kids and are extremely clean and organized.

\* Members who are willing to be contacted with further questions about a preschool that they are recommending. Please refer to your MDMC membership roster for the phone number of the member. If you are a MDMC member and do not have a current roster, please send an email to Karen Doig at [karenadoig@yahoo.com](mailto:karenadoig@yahoo.com) to request that a roster be mailed to you.