

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Liz Newberg, Communications Specialist
(860) 560-5636 or cell: (860) 324-1403

Community Renewal Team offers “Jumpstart”

Innovative new program helps ease children into school environment

HARTFORD - More than 150 excited three-year-olds – along with hundreds of dads and moms – attended the opening day recently of Community Renewal Team’s new summer preschool program called Jumpstart. This innovative ten-week educational introduction is for children who have never been in a preschool. Funding is provided by the Administration for Children and Families, as part of the Head Start program.

Little ones jumped right into their day of playing and learning, while their parents or grandparents attended orientation. They were offered an overview of what the children will do throughout the summer, as well as ways parents can support learning at home. Afterward, many adults stayed to have lunch with their children and the teachers. Jumpstart is a hybrid between a center-based and a home-based program. The children attend Jumpstart classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; teachers visit in the homes and organize family activities on Tuesdays. After ten weeks, these children will make a smooth transition to the full-day, full- year preschool.

“This is a wonderful way for children to begin getting familiar with classroom activities and routines,” said Emilie Montgomery, CRT’s Director of Early Care and Education. “At the same time, parents and teachers are getting to know each other. Initiatives like this will help us to close the achievement gap, one child at a time.”

CRT provides preschool and childcare for more than 1,400 children from the age of six weeks to four years. There are developmentally-appropriate educational activities for all ages, as well as nutritious meals, health screenings, parents’ activities and family support. Locations include Bloomfield, Clinton, Hartford, Middletown, Portland and Windsor. For more information and to enroll your children in CRT’s Early Childhood programs, please call 860-560-5401 or visit www.crtct.org

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Community Renewal Team, Inc. is the designated Community Action Agency for Middlesex and Hartford Counties and is the largest non-profit provider of human services in Connecticut. The agency’s mission is Preparing Our Community to Meet Life’s Challenges. The mission is achieved each day by helping people and families change their lives and create their own opportunities in becoming self-reliant while making sure basic needs are met. CRT’s programs include Head Start, Meals on Wheels, energy assistance, supportive housing and shelters, and many others, serving people in more than 60 cities and towns in both our core catchment area and throughout Connecticut. Visit the www.crtct.org.