

## Kids Connection, Inc.

Renee Gust, owner and director of Kids Connection, Inc. in St. Charles followed her passion to work with children, especially those with special needs.

Her 6,400 square foot center offers early childhood education programs and summer programs for school age children. The early childhood program is a play-based curriculum. "We believe that children learn through play, but academics are important to prepare them for the rigors of elementary school," she said.

The school age summer program includes outdoor play, offsite field trips and hands-on activities in academic areas.

Beginning in June, Kids Connection will introduce a full day preschool, and extended care for school age children in addition to their over 10 years experience with part day preschool programs. "Because of the economy, more parents are working part-time or working from home. They may not need care five days a week, but need the flexibility of having care two days a week for longer periods," she said.

The need is especially strong for parents of special needs children. Kids Connection has been inclusive since it opened in 2003, Gust said. "Outside of school, childcare is very difficult to find for these families. We have a gym, we have equipment and we have therapy consultants from the school districts and community who come in and help," she said.

**Kids Connection, Inc. • [www.kidsconnection.info](http://www.kidsconnection.info)  
2011 Dean Street, St. Charles, IL • 630-587-9400**

