

# Early Care & Education Programs for families experiencing homelessness

If your family is in shelter or temporary housing you may be eligible for free early care and education services. This includes families who may be sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason. If your family is eligible, you have many early care and education options – and if space is available, you can enroll your child at any time. In addition, families experiencing homelessness who are in receipt of Cash Assistance but not eligible for child care benefits through HRA can now apply for child care assistance through DOE or ACS.

## Options

### EarlyLearn

DOE EarlyLearn programs, including Early Head Start, provide early care and education for infants and toddlers. These programs are free for income-eligible families living in temporary housing.

**Ages: 0 – 2 years old.**

**Program: Center and home based**

**Hours: All year, up to 10 hours a day**

[www.nyc.gov/earlylearn](http://www.nyc.gov/earlylearn)

### 3-K for All

NYC families can apply to free, full-day, high-quality 3-K for All. These programs are available to families in temporary housing in all school districts. Families can apply to 3-K in the calendar year that your child turns three.

**Ages: 3 years old**

**Program: Center, school, and home based**

**Hours: All year, up to 10 hours a day**

[www.nyc.gov/3k](http://www.nyc.gov/3k)

### Pre-K for All

NYC families can apply to free, full-day, high-quality Pre-K for All. These programs are available to all families in all school districts, regardless of income or needs. Families can apply to Pre-K in the calendar year that your child turns four.

**Ages: 4 years old**

**Program: Center and school based**

**Hours: All year, up to 10 hours a day**

[www.nyc.gov/prek](http://www.nyc.gov/prek)

### Child Care Vouchers

Child care vouchers help cover the cost of child care at hundreds of home-based and center-based providers across the city. Vouchers may also be used to pay approved relatives, neighbors, or friends for care. Families in temporary housing will be prioritized to receive a voucher.

**Ages: 6 weeks – 13 years old (or to 19 years old for children with disabilities)**

**Program: Center and home based**

**Hours: All year, up to 24 hours a day**

[nyc.gov/childcarevouchers](http://nyc.gov/childcarevouchers)



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## How to Apply

### FOR EARLYLEARN, 3K FOR ALL, OR PRE-K FOR ALL:

#### IDENTIFY A PROGRAM

- Visit [www.MySchools.nyc/schools](http://www.MySchools.nyc/schools) for a directory of EarlyLearn, 3K, and Pre-K For All programs.
- Use the “More Filters” tab and select “Head Start” or “Extended Day/Year” if you’re interested in programs providing year-round care (including during summer months)
- Call 718-935-2009, email: [ES\\_Enrollment@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:ES_Enrollment@schools.nyc.gov) or visit a DOE Family Welcome Center for help

#### APPLY FOR:

#### Early Learn, 3K for All or PreK for All extended day/year programs

- **For Head Start Programs:**
  - Apply directly through the program (visit their website or call for instructions). Families in temporary housing are eligible for Head Start regardless of income or immigration status
- **For All Other Programs:**
  - Fill out an application form: [bit.ly/childcareeligibility](http://bit.ly/childcareeligibility)
  - Submit your application to your program, or to DOE by emailing it to [CCapplication@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:CCapplication@schools.nyc.gov) or mailing it to NYC DOE – Family Welcome Center, 333 7th Avenue 12th floor, New York, NY, 10001

#### APPLY FOR:

#### 3K for All or PreK for All school day/year programs

- Call the 3K or Pre-K program directly to learn about immediate openings or when a seat may become available. These programs do not require any eligibility determinations!

### FOR CHILD CARE VOUCHERS:

#### IDENTIFY A PROGRAM

- Visit DOHMH’s Child Care Connect portal to see a directory of licensed early care and education centers, school based programs, and permitted summer camps or OCFS’s Child Care Search Tool to see a directory of registered home based providers.
- If you don’t know which program to attend, that’s okay – you can submit the child care application without this information included.
- Call (212) 835-7610 or email: [temporaryhousingRA@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:temporaryhousingRA@acs.nyc.gov) for help.

#### APPLY

- Fill out an application form (mark that you’re in temporary housing): <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/acs/early-care/forms.page>
- Submit your application form to ACS by emailing it to [temporaryhousingRA@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:temporaryhousingRA@acs.nyc.gov) or mailing it to NYC Children – EDU, PO Box 40, Maplewood, N.J., 07040.
- If eligible, you will be issued a voucher which you’ll complete and return to ACS.

