




Your Guide to Child Care and Early Education

These programs offer safe & positive learning environments for children to socialize and explore.

For more help, contact NYC Public Schools at 718-935-2009.

Step 1: Understand the types of child care programs offered

-  Children between 6 weeks and 3 years old → Apply for **Infant & Toddler**
-  Children that turn 3 on or before December 31 of this year → Apply for **3-K**
-  Children that turn 4 on or before December 31 of this year → Apply for **Pre-K**

Step 2: Choose a program your child is eligible for

Extended Day and Year

 **Infant & Toddler**  **3-K**  **Pre-K**

Cost: Free or low cost

Hours: 8 or 10 hours

Months: Year-round (12 months)

Eligibility: Meet 1 and 2 below.

1. Your income is below a certain amount, see the following table:

Household Size	Annual Income
2	\$0 - \$73,869
3	\$0 - \$91,250
4	\$0 - \$108,631
5	\$0 - \$126,012
6	\$0 - \$143,393

Note: Income changes yearly, verify at schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/

2. You meet one of the following approved reasons for care:

- You work 10+ hours per week.
- You are in an educational or vocational training program.
- You are looking for work.
- You live in temporary housing.
- You are attending services for domestic violence.
- You are receiving treatment for substance abuse.

Head Start

 **Infant & Toddler**  **3-K**  **Pre-K**

Cost: Free

Hours: 8 or 10 hours

Months: Year-round (12 months)

Eligibility: Meet **one** of the following.

- Your income is below a certain amount, see the following table:

Household Size	Annual Income
2	\$0 - \$20,440
3	\$0 - \$25,820
4	\$0 - \$31,200
5	\$0 - \$36,580
6	\$0 - \$41,960

Note: Income changes yearly, verify at schools.nyc.gov/enrollment/

- You are enrolling a child who is in foster care.
- You receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- You receive cash assistance from the Human Resources Administration.
- You receive Supplement Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP).
- You live in temporary housing.

School Day

 **3-K**  **Pre-K**

Cost: Free

Hours:

6 hours & 20 minutes

Months:

September to June (10 months)


Eligibility: Open to all

For Head Start & School Day:

Children are eligible regardless of their citizenship or legal immigration status.

Step 3: Confirm if there is an open seat for your child

   For all programs, follow the steps below

1. Go to [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc), you do not need to log in.>
2. Click the  **School Directory** tab. Select the program type you are searching for.
3. Using the map feature, enter a program name or look for options in your desired area by entering a zip code. (Note: You can enroll your child anywhere, you are not restricted to where you live.)>
4. Click the **Need a Seat for the 2024-25 School Year?** filter and select the program(s) you are searching for (e.g., *School Day, Extended Day and Year, and/or Head Start.*)
5. Click on the provider name to expand the> program description and find contact information.
6. Call the provider to ask if a seat is available.
Once you've confirmed a seat is available, ask the provider...

- to verify your eligibility for the program type.
(Reminder: you can see the eligibility for each program on page 1.)
- for directions on how you can submit the required documentation.



[MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc)

 **SEARCH ALL PROGRAMS**

Search by provider name, interests, etc.



How contact information will appear

 esenrollment@schools.nyc.gov

 [718-935-2009](tel:718-935-2009)

Step 4: Enroll your child in a program

Extended Day and Year



1. Go to [MyCity.nyc.gov/s/ChildcareLanding](https://www.mycity.nyc.gov/s/ChildcareLanding)
2. Go to the 'Apply for Child Care',> and click 'Select Contracted Care'
3. Follow the steps to make an account on MyCity.>
4. Complete your application! Be ready to upload documentation that shows your income and approved reason for care (see page 1 of this guide).

APPLY FOR CHILD CARE

Apply for child care assistance online today. Track your application status and see your personal information in one place.

APPLY NOW →

New Contracted Care

The Department of Education (DOE) provides a number of free or low-cost child care programs for families that qualify. These programs provide early care and education for children from six weeks up to five years old in center, home, or school based settings, all year round for up to ten hours a day. Eligibility is based on your family's income and needs. If you qualify and there is a seat available, your child can begin a program anytime during the year. If your first-choice program doesn't have space, DOE will help you find other options. You can use the MySchools map at <https://www.myschools.nyc/en/schools/> to learn more about programs in your neighborhood.

SELECT CONTRACTED CARE

Head Start



1. Be ready to show documentation of your income.
2. Complete the enrollment with the program.

School Day



1. Complete the enrollment directly with the program.
2. Be ready to provide the following documents:
 - Proof of child's age (*birth certificate, passport, record of baptism*)
 - Immunization records (*if available*)
 - 2 Proofs of Address (*examples include: utility bill, government issued identification. For more, see [Registration Checklist.](#)*)

Looking for more options? Child care vouchers help cover the cost of private child care and are accepted at hundreds of providers including center-based and home-based programs. Eligibility for child care vouchers is the same as Extended Day. Learn more about child care vouchers at [MyCity.nyc.gov!](https://www.mycity.nyc.gov/)