

How can I find a preschool or child care facility?

What is pre-K?

Pre-K classes are generally composed of two teachers and 20 students ages 3 to 5. Teachers help students develop the skills they will need to succeed in kindergarten. A full day is at least 5 hours, and many programs operate 9am-3pm. To enroll for a school year, your child must be 3 years old on or before September 1st.

What free preschool programs are available in Philadelphia?

Free Philly Pre-K

- No income limits.
- Visit www.freephillyprek.org or call 844-745-7735.
- Review the schools on the map and pick your top three schools.
- Call the schools to ask if they are accepting new students.
- Create an account and apply at <https://apply.avela.org/phillyprek>
- Check back weekly to see if your application is approved.



PA Pre-K Counts

- For household income at or below 300% federal poverty line.
- Visit www.findchildcare.pa.gov or call 877-472-5437.
- Enter your zip code and select the "Pre-K Counts" tab on the map.
- Call the schools to ask if they are accepting new students.
- You can also apply for PA Pre-K Counts through the Philly website <https://apply.avela.org/phillyprek>



HeadStart

- For household income at or below 100% federal poverty line.
- Visit <https://headstart.gov/center-locator> or call 866-763-6481.
- Enter your zip code and review the schools on the map.
- Call the schools to ask if they are accepting new students.



Are there specialized preschools for children with disabilities?

Yes. Talk with your child's LEA and Individualized Education Program (IEP) team about if your child might be eligible for a specialized classroom.

I'm not sure my child is ready for Pre-K. What options are available?

For children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis, some Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) programs offer opportunities for skill development and socialization with peers in shorter sessions. See ABA Flyer for more information.

Where can I find a licensed child care provider for day care, before care or after care?

- Visit www.findchildcare.pa.gov or call 877-472-5437.
- Enter your zip code and the age of the child.
- Select the “Child Care” tab on the map.
- Contact providers based on their location and Keystone STARS rating.

How can I get assistance paying for day care, before care or after care?

If you work 20+ hours a week (or 10+ hours and 10+ training hours), you may qualify for Child Care Works (formerly CCIS) which can subsidize childcare at any licensed child care facility in Philadelphia.

How do I apply for Child Care Works?

The PHMC Early Learning Resource Center #18 (ELRC 18) administers the Child Care Works program in Philadelphia.

- Apply online through Compass www.compass.dhs.pa.gov.
- Apply in person at 4601 Market St or 1200 Callowhill St.
- Fax a written application to 267-592-4178. Find the written application online at www.elrc-phmc.org/elrc-18.
- Email ELRC18Intake@phmc.org.



I receive TANF (cash assistance). Can I get subsidized child care?

Current or former TANF (cash assistance) recipients may also qualify for subsidized child care for any work or education activity. Ask your County Assistance Office caseworker to add this support to your Agreement of Mutual Responsibility. For more information, visit www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/cash-assistance/employment-training-tanf.html.



I receive SNAP (food stamps). Can I get subsidized child care?

Current SNAP (food stamps) recipients may also qualify for subsidized child care while participating in an education or job search program. Ask your County Assistance Office caseworker to create an Employment Development Plan. For more information, visit www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/snap/snap-employment-training.html.

