

Childcare Options For Your Child

Early Head Start: Early Head Start is a free full day and full year childcare program for children aged 0 to 3. The service can fund a variety of day care options at both childcare centers and in home daycares. They also provide a variety of educational support, health information, and other services. While at the daycare program they provide healthy snacks and meals for your child.

[Eligibility Requirements](#)

How to Apply: Find a program that is right for you using the [quality child care map](#). Then contact the school directly to discuss the application process and your eligibility for these programs.

Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC): ELRC can help to pay for some of the costs of childcare for your child. Their goal is to help parents find, select, and pay for the best fit childcare option for their family. To qualify for subsidized child care you must meet their eligibility requirements and then apply. Visit the [ELRC website](#) to learn more about how to find and select a childcare program that is right for your child.

[Eligibility Requirements](#)

How to Apply: You can apply for ELRC online [here](#) or by downloading an application [here](#) in English or Spanish.

PreKindergarten Options For Your Child

When can my child begin pre-K?

In Philadelphia children can be enrolled in pre-K between the ages of 3 and 5 and must be 3 years old by September 1st of that school year.

Pre-Kindergarten Options in Philadelphia

PHLPreK: PHLPreK is Philadelphia County's free, quality pre-k option with over 180 school locations participating for children aged 3 to 4. They are located throughout the city with multiple options in every zip code. There are no income requirements to participate in this program.

[List of pre-k programs by zip code](#)

Pre-K Counts: Pre-K Counts is another free, quality pre-k option in Philadelphia County for children aged 3 to 5. To qualify for this program you must meet the family income eligibility requirements linked below. This option may not always cover a full day of child care so they may require some out of pocket costs.

[Eligibility Requirements](#)

Head Start: Head Start is the final free, quality pre-k option in Philadelphia County for children aged 3 to 5. This program also provides breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snacks to your child. They also provide additional resources to parents for their child's health, social development and more. To qualify for this program you must meet the family income eligibility requirements linked below which are different from the Pre-K Counts requirements.

[Eligibility Requirements](#)

How to Apply

PHLPreK: [Apply here](#)

Located here is also the required documents needed to apply

Pre-K Counts & Head Start: Find a program that is right for you using the [quality child care map](#). Then contact the school directly to discuss the application process and your eligibility for these programs.

Other Resources

[Compass:](#) Compass is an online database to find and apply to a variety of resources related to childcare in Pennsylvania. Through Compass you may find the program for you as well as find resources to help pay for childcare.

[Keystone STARS:](#) Keystone STARS is a voluntary program for childcare programs to join and then are given a rating. They help to ensure that your child is receiving a quality education through rating programs on a star system basis.

[Open Seats in Childcare](#): This site shows programs in Philadelphia that currently have openings for infants, toddlers, pre-k, and kindergarten. The site is updated regularly and can be filtered by zip code to see accurate openings in your area. Select the school's name in blue to learn more about the school and what they offer as well as cost and their STARS rating.

[Winnie](#): Another great resource where parents can explore childcare options by zip code. Select a school to learn about their programs, the cost of attending, and see reviews left by parents. Through Winnie you can also request more information on the schools that currently have openings in their programs.