



Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

Applying to 2-K

If your child was born in 2024, they are eligible for this new early care and education program.

What is 2-K?

Starting in September 2026, New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) will offer a free early childhood care and education program for two-year-old children. 2-K will offer care for up to 10 hours a day for the full year. Enrollment will not depend on income, housing status, immigration status, disability, or other factors. The City expects to expand the program each year with the hope that there will be a placement for every two-year-old child in the next four years. Visit schools.nyc.gov/2k for updates.

Where will programs be located?

During the 2026-2027 school year, 2-K will serve 2,000 children in the following 5 school districts:

- **The Bronx: District 10** (Fordham, Belmont, Norwood, Morris Heights, Van Cortlandt Village, Kingsbridge)
- **Brooklyn: Districts 18 & 23** (Canarsie, Remsen Village, Brownsville, Ocean Hill)
- **Manhattan: District 6** (Washington Heights, Inwood, Hamilton Heights)
- **Queens: District 27** (Ozone Park, South Ozone Park, Richmond Hill, Woodhaven, Howard Beach, the Rockaways)

To find your school district, **call 3-1-1** or enter your address in the online search tool: schoolsearch.schools.nyc.

While all NYC families of children born in 2024 can apply, children who live in the above districts will have priority. When applying, keep in mind that NYCPS will *not* provide transportation to 2-K programs.

What program settings will be available?

2-K programs will be available in Family Child Care (FCC) and NYC Early Childhood Education Centers. All programs must meet City and State quality and safety standards.

- Family Child Care programs are home-based programs staffed by licensed childcare providers that contract with NYCPS to offer this program. These are programs that may also serve children younger than two years old in the same space.
- NYC Early Education Centers are community-based organizations that contract with NYCPS to offer 2-K. They are commonly referred to as “center-based” programs and are run by licensed staff.

How can I apply?

There are three ways to apply:

1. Apply online at [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc.gov);
2. Call (718) 935-2009, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; or
3. Contact a [Family Welcome Center](#).

If you have questions about the application process or need more help, you can email ESEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov or contact a [Family Welcome Center](#).

Application Opens
June 2, 2026

Application Due
June 26, 2026

Offers will be sent
August 4, 2026

When can my child start attending 2-K?

When the program begins in September, all children who have already turned two will be able to start right away. However, some programs may require families of children born later in the year to wait until their child's second birthday to attend.

What supports are available for toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities?

All families, including families of children with developmental delays or disabilities, should apply to 2-K! Programs cannot turn a child away because of their disability.

Children under three with developmental delays or disabilities are eligible for free evaluations and developmental services through the Early Intervention (EI) program. Children can receive their EI services in their 2-K program. To learn more about Early Intervention, including how to [request an evaluation](#) and services, see AFC's [Guide to Early Intervention](#).

If your child needs other supports, you may contact the 2-K program directly once your child is enrolled and write a letter asking for a [504 accommodations plan](#). For example, if your child has diabetes and needs a staff member to inject insulin or if your child has food allergies and needs to avoid certain foods, you may want to ask for a 504 plan.

What other early childhood care and education options are available?

For more information on other free or low-cost programs for children under three, including [Infant & Toddler](#), [Birth-to-Two](#), and [Early Head Start](#), visit [nyc.gov/childcare](https://www.nyc.gov/childcare). Most of these programs offer rolling admission throughout the year.

In the winter of 2027, all families of children born in 2024 will be eligible to apply to [3-K](#). Learn more in AFC's [Applying to 3-K and Pre-K Guide](#)

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