



Applying to 3-K and Pre-K

A GUIDE TO PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR 3- AND 4-YEAR-OLDS FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Attending a high-quality preschool program helps children prepare to arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed. In fact, research shows that children who receive a high-quality early childhood education are more likely to do well in school, graduate from high school, and get higher paying jobs. There are several types of free or low-cost early childhood programs in New York City, including **3-K and Pre-K** (see page 1), **Infant & Toddler** (see page 10), and **Head Start** (see page 12).

3-K & PRE-K PROGRAMS

3-K programs are free full-day preschool programs for children who are three years old. A child is eligible to attend a 3-K class in September of the year in which they turn three years old. For the 2026-2027 school year, children are eligible if they were born in 2023.

Pre-K programs are free preschool programs for children who are four years old. A child is eligible to start Pre-K in September of the year in which they turn four years old. For the 2026-2027 school year, children are eligible if they were born in 2022.

The NYC Department of Education (DOE) runs 3-K and Pre-K. Programs are located in NYC DOE district schools, NYC DOE Pre-K Centers, and community-based organizations called NYC Early Education Centers (NYCEECs). 3-K programs are also available in home-based programs called Family Child Care. Pre-K programs are also available in charter schools.

- NYC DOE district school 3-K and Pre-K programs are located in DOE public elementary schools and overseen by the school's principal.
- NYC DOE Pre-K Centers are run by DOE staff, but they have 3-K and Pre-K classes only. They may be located in DOE public school buildings or separate DOE sites.
- NYC Early Education Centers (NYCEECs) are community-based organizations that contract with the DOE to run 3-K and Pre-K programs.
- Charter schools are free public schools that are run by an independent board of trustees, rather than by the DOE. Some, but not all, charter schools offer Pre-K programs.
- Family Child Care programs are home-based programs staffed by licensed child care providers that contract with the DOE to run 3-K programs.

All 3-K and Pre-K programs are held to high quality standards. Most programs are full school day (6 hours and 20 minutes) and follow the 10-month school calendar. There are also Extended Day and Year (EDY) and Transitional Head Start seats that can offer up to 10 hours of care and education each day year-round. These programs have additional eligibility requirements. See page 10. For families looking for a shorter school day, there are also five-hour programs and some half-day programs (2 hours and 30 minutes) available.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

You can apply to 3-K and Pre-K programs at DOE district schools, DOE Pre-K Centers, NYC Early Education Centers, and Family Child Care (just for 3-K) using one application. All families of children born in 2023 can participate in the 3-K admissions process and all families of children born in 2022 can participate in the Pre-K admissions process, including families of students with disabilities, Emergent Multilingual Learners, and students in temporary housing.

Explore Your Options: January 2026

You may research 3-K and Pre-K programs using the online directory at [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc). The website has maps and information about programs across New York City. You can use the directory to locate programs in your neighborhood of choice, whether near your home address, place of work, or some other location.

Once you enter an address on [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc), you'll find 3-K or Pre-K programs in that school district and information about the program type. In addition to listing the location and contact information for each program, the directory also provides information on extended hours, language supports provided at the program (for example, dual language programs), whether a program is fully or partially accessible, and the program code (for the application). You can also browse programs by borough or use filters to search for programs by location, proximity to public transportation, accessibility, language supports and other preferences. Each program page will include the program website, contact information, admissions priorities, which groups of students received offers last year and more. You can also access the "Quality Snapshot" to see how families and evaluators rated the program. Once the application period begins, you can also use [MySchools.nyc](https://www.myschools.nyc) to apply to programs.

You can use the information found online to make a list of programs where you may want to apply. Once you have made this list, you may want to contact the programs to help you decide which ones are best for your child and ask about open houses and tours. In making your list of programs, you should also think about your child's chances of getting an offer to each program. Admission to each program is based on a list of admissions priorities. See page 4 for information about these admissions priorities.

Apply to 3-K & Pre-K Programs: January 14 – February 27, 2026

You can apply to multiple 3-K and Pre-K programs in your application. During the application process, you can apply to programs that offer school day seats (6 hours, 20 minutes) as well as Extended Day and Year (EDY) seats, and Transitional Head Start seats.

However, if you are interested in five-hour or half-day Pre-K programs or any Pre-K programs at charter schools, please contact those sites directly to apply. You cannot apply to five-hour or half-day programs or to any charter school programs through the central application.

Although there are many factors that you may want to think about in choosing a 3-K or Pre-K program, some questions to ask may be:

- Does the space feel child friendly?
- How easy is it to reach and speak to the teachers and program director?
- How much experience do the classroom teachers have in early childhood education? (Note that the teachers may change by next year.)
- Does the curriculum seem developmentally appropriate, focusing on learning through play?
- Is there an indoor or outdoor play space?
- How does the staff respond when children are having a rough day?
- How does the program work with families?
- Where do children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) receive related services, such as speech therapy?
- What language supports are available for children and families who speak a language other than English?
- Does the program offer after-school hours? If so, what is the cost?
- How would you get your child to the program in the morning and pick up your child in the afternoon?

On your application, you should list programs in the order of your true preference. If it is hard for you to decide how to rank programs, think about which factors matter most to you. Some programs may be near your home or work. The DOE does not provide bus service to 3-K and Pre-K programs except under limited circumstances for students in temporary housing or students in foster care (see page 7). Others may have longer hours and provide your child with after-school child care for a fee. Still others may include staff members and teachers whom you find warm and inviting. You should list the program you like the most as your first choice.

Once you have decided on the ranking programs, **there are three ways to apply:**

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

The application is available online in 13 languages: Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, English, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian, Urdu, and Uzbek. The DOE will also provide interpreters in 200 languages to help families who apply over the phone.

If you have questions about the application process or need more help, you can email the DOE at ESEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov or contact a [Family Welcome Center](#) (see page 13).

Receive an Offer: May 2026

On May 19th, the DOE will send a Pre-K placement offer to each family who applied. If the DOE cannot offer you any of the programs that you listed on your application, the DOE will give you an offer to a program that has seats available. You should accept the offer and register at the school where your child is offered a seat. The deadline to accept the offer will be included in your offer letter.

The DOE will send a 3-K results letter on May 19th to every family that applies by the deadline. Although there is not a guaranteed seat for every child who applies, the DOE made 3-K offers to all families that applied for the 2025-2026 school year. Families who receive an offer should accept the offer and register their child at the program that offered a seat.

TO REGISTER, you must go to program and bring:

- **Your offer letter;**
- **One proof of your child's age** (such as a birth certificate, passport, or record of baptism); and
- **Two proofs of your address.**

The DOE has created a [registration checklist](#) of documents you'll need to register. For proof of address, you can use:

- A lease, deed, or mortgage statement;
- Gas, electric, water, cable, or property tax bill;
- Rent receipt;
- Official payroll documentation;
- Income tax form;
- Voter registration document;
- Documentation from a government agency;
- Government issued identification (including an IDNYC card);
- Driver's license;
- Membership documents based on residency (e.g., neighborhood residents' association); or
- Evidence of custody of the child.

You *cannot* use a phone bill, credit card bill, or health insurance card.

If you live with another family, you may not have paperwork in your name to prove your address if the lease is in the other family's name. When you go to register at the school you were offered, you may bring an "[Affidavit of Residency](#)" signed, and preferably notarized, by you and the primary leaseholder/tenant stating that you live

at that address, along with two other documents confirming your address. Families living in temporary housing are not required to submit documentation in order to register. See page 7 & 8 for additional information.

You do not need to provide proof of citizenship or a Social Security number.

Once you accept the offer, your child is set to attend that school in September as long as the child remains eligible for the seat.¹

3-K & Pre-K Admissions: Late Applications

If you missed the application deadline, you can add your child to the waitlist for programs on Myschools.nyc or by calling (718) 935-2009.

3-K & PRE-K: ADMISSIONS PRIORITIES

Because many district schools, Pre-K Centers, and NYC Early Education Centers are not able to admit all students who apply, admissions decisions are based on a list of priorities. For families who list a particular 3-K or Pre-K program anywhere on their application, students in the first priority group for that program will be accepted first, and then offers will be made to the second priority group, and so on, until all seats in that program are filled. If more students apply for a program within a single priority category than the program can accept, offers are made based on a random selection within the priority group.

WAITLISTS

If you applied to more than one 3-K or Pre-K program on the application, your child will be placed on the waitlist for any programs you listed higher than the program you were offered. You can accept your offer and remain on the waitlists for programs you ranked higher. If a program is able to offer you a seat from the waitlist, the program will contact you directly.

Admissions Priorities for NYC DOE District Schools

If you are interested in a 3-K or Pre-K program at **district schools**, you should first determine your **zoned school** and **district**. To find your zoned school and district, go to [MySchools.nyc](https://Myschools.nyc) or schoolsearch.schools.nyc and enter your home address. You will see the name and contact information for the school that is zoned for your address and your district. You can also get this information by calling 311. Keep in mind that your zoned school may or may not offer 3-K and Pre-K programs.

Most 3-K and Pre-K programs in zoned district schools accept students in the following order of priority²:

3-K Pre-K

N/A	1	Current students who attend the school's 3-K program (if one exists);
1	2	Zoned students who will have a sibling ³ at the school during the 2026-2027 school year;
2	3	Other zoned students;
3	4	Students who live in the district and will have a sibling at the school during the 2026-2027 school year;
4	5	Out-of-district students who will have a sibling at the school during the 2026-2027 school year;
5	6	Other students who live in the district;
6	7	Other students who live outside the district.

¹ For example, if a district school learns that a student's address falls outside of the priority zone and the school does not have space for children outside the zone, the student may lose that placement.

² Schools participating in [Diversity in Admissions](#) initiatives may have additional priority categories approved by the DOE to achieve greater diversity in the school's Pre-K program.

³ A sibling includes a half-sibling, step sibling, and foster sibling of the applicant, who lives in the same household. To get the sibling priority, the sibling must be enrolled in the school during the 2026-2027 school year or enrolled in a District 75 specialized program for the 2026-2027 school year that is co-located in the same school building.

While most children have a zoned school, District 1 (Lower East Side, Manhattan), District 7 (South Bronx), and District 23 (Brownsville, Brooklyn) are non-zoned districts. All schools in these districts are non-zoned schools. Parents in these districts can apply to any school within the district, and their child will have a similar chance of being admitted (though children who attend 3-K at the school and children with siblings at the school get higher priority). In addition, in other districts throughout NYC, there are some schools without a zone called non-zoned schools. Non-zoned schools admit students based on 3-K priorities 3-6 and Pre-K priorities 1 and 4-7 listed above.

In an effort to increase diversity, each school in [District 1](#) gives priority for a percentage of seats to students who qualify for free or reduced lunch based on income, students in temporary housing, and students whose home language is a language other than English. The percentage is based on the background of District 1 applicants.

For zoned schools, students who live in the zone will have the best chance of being admitted. However, some zoned schools have enough 3-K and Pre-K seats to admit students who live outside the zone. Other zoned schools do not have enough 3-K and Pre-K seats for all zoned students. The online directory at [MySchools.nyc](#) has information about which priority groups were admitted during last year's application period. While you can apply to any school you want, this information can help you think about how likely it is that your child will be admitted this year.

For example, you may want your child to attend a school that is in your district but is *not* your child's zoned school. The program's page on [MySchools.nyc](#) may show that the school that you want only had seats for zoned students last year. You should feel free to list this school on your application. If it is your first choice, you should list it as your first choice! However, you may also want to list other schools, Pre-K Centers, or NYC Early Education Centers on your application where your child is more likely to get an offer. Listing your zoned school lower down on your application does *not* affect your child's chances of getting admitted to the zoned school if the schools you ranked higher do not have a seat for your child.

How does my child's attendance at a Pre-K program at a DOE district school impact kindergarten admissions?

Your child's attendance at a Pre-K program at a DOE district school does not guarantee that they can attend the same school for kindergarten for the 2027-2028 school year. You will still need to apply to schools during the kindergarten admissions process when your child is in Pre-K. Decisions about which children will receive offers to which schools for kindergarten will be made based on a list of kindergarten admissions priorities.

Attending Pre-K at your zoned school will not make your child any more or less likely than any other zoned student to be admitted to the school for kindergarten. However, attending Pre-K at a school that is **not** your zoned school may increase your child's chance of being admitted to the same school for kindergarten based on the kindergarten admissions priorities.

For more information about the Kindergarten Admissions process, see AFC's [Applying to Kindergarten Guide](#).

Admissions Priorities for NYC DOE Pre-K Centers

DOE Pre-K Centers are led and run by DOE staff but, unlike DOE district schools, they offer 3-K and Pre-K only. These programs are located in DOE public schools or at separate Pre-K sites where all of the students are in 3-K or Pre-K. Programs at DOE Pre-K Centers accept students in the following order of priority:

3-K	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Students who live in the same district as the Pre-K Center and will have a sibling at the center during the 2026-27 school year;2. Students who live outside the district and will have a sibling at the Pre-K Center during the 2026-2027 school year;3. Other students who live in district;4. Other students who live outside the district.
Pre-K	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Students who currently attend 3-K at the Pre-K Center;2. Students who live in the same district as the Pre-K Center;3. Students who live outside the district.

Remember: To find your district, go to [MySchools.nyc](https://myschools.nyc) or schoolsearch.schools.nyc, enter your home address, borough, and child's grade, and click "Search." You will see the name and contact information for the school that is zoned for your address and your district. You can also get this information by calling 311.

Admissions Priorities for NYC Early Education Centers (NYCEECs)

NYC Early Education Centers accept students in the following order of priority:

3-K	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Current students enrolled at the NYC Early Education Center;2. Students who will have siblings enrolled at the Center during the 2026-2027 school year;3. Students whose families currently receive free or subsidized social services from the organization operating the Center;4. All other students living in the district;5. All other students.
Pre-K	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Current students enrolled at the NYC Early Education Center;2. Students who will have siblings enrolled at the Center during the 2026-2027 school year;3. Students whose families currently receive free or subsidized social services from the organization operating the Center;4. Students who speak a language other than English that the center specializes in serving;5. All other students.

As mentioned above, children who attend a NYC Early Education Center during the 2025-2026 school year have first priority to stay at the NYC Early Education Center for 3-K and Pre-K during the 2026-2027 school year. Therefore, some NYC Early Education Centers may not have room for new students. If you are interested in applying to a NYC Early Education Center, you may want to contact the center first to ask if the center thinks it will have seats for students who are not already attending the center. The program page on [MySchools.nyc](https://myschools.nyc) can also help tell you whether new students received an offer last year.

Either way, you can list the NYC Early Education Center, but may want to list other options on your application too. In addition, some NYC Early Education Centers have income or other eligibility requirements because they are also funded through child care. The [MySchools.nyc](https://myschools.nyc) directory notes which NYC Early Education Centers have these requirements. You should contact these centers before applying to make sure you meet the eligibility requirements.

QUESTIONS ABOUT 3-K or Pre-K?

Families with questions about the 3-K and Pre-K admissions processes can contact the **DOE** at ESenrollment@schools.nyc.gov or (718) 935-2009.

One of the benefits of applying to a NYC Early Education Center is that these programs may offer longer hours than programs at district schools. However, keep in mind that you may have to pay a fee for these longer hours. See page 10 for information about Extended Day and Year at NYC Early Education Centers.

Admissions Priorities for Family Child Care (FCC)

Children can attend 3-K in home-based programs run by licensed and qualified staff known as Family Child Care programs. FCCs accept students in the following order of priority:

1. Current students enrolled in the FCC program;
2. Students who will have siblings enrolled at the FCC during the 2026-2027 school year;
3. Students whose families currently receive free or subsidized social services from the organization operating the FCC;
4. All other students living in the district;
5. All other students.

Finding open seats after the 3-K & Pre-K admissions process ends

Some 3-K and Pre-K programs may have seats available after the application period has ended and after the new school year has started. You can check [MySchools.nyc](#) for updates after the application period.

Additionally, families can:

1. Call 311 or (718) 935-2009; or
2. Contact programs directly; or
3. Visit a [Family Welcome Center](#) (see page 13).

To find 3-K or Pre-K seats for the 2025-2026 year, you can search [MySchools.nyc](#) for 3-K and Pre-K programs using the “need a seat for this school year?” function and then contact programs directly to confirm they have a seat available.

ADDITIONAL RIGHTS FOR PRESCHOOLERS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING & CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Pre-K and 3-K application and enrollment

Families living in temporary housing, such as a shelter, can and should participate in the 3-K and Pre-K admissions processes. You can determine your zoned school by entering your temporary address at [schoolsearch.schools.nyc](#) or [MySchools.nyc](#) or calling 311.

When families go to **register**, if they are unable to provide two proofs of address, they should let the school know that they are living in temporary housing. Families living in temporary housing are not required to submit documents in order to register. If the family runs into any difficulty, they can contact their borough's [Regional Manager](#) for Students in Temporary Housing. See page 14 & 15 for their contact information.

Once the school year starts, if there are **open seats** in a 3-K or Pre-K program, children in temporary housing have the right to **immediate enrollment**. This means that the program must enroll the child right away, even if the family cannot provide the documents normally necessary for enrollment, such as birth certificates, proof of residency, or immunizations.

Transportation to 3-K and Pre-K programs

Children in temporary housing also have the right to transportation. The DOE will give parents **OMNY Cards** to bring their children to and from 3-K and Pre-K programs at DOE district schools, DOE Pre-K

Centers, NYC Early Education Centers, Family Child Care, and charter schools. All families of children in temporary housing can request OMNY Cards from their child's DOE preschool program or the DOE's Students in Temporary Housing [Regional Managers](#). See pages 14 & 15 for the DOE's Regional Manager's contact information.

In some cases, children in temporary housing can get busing to and from their 3-K or pre-K program if there is an appropriate route available. To request busing, families in temporary housing should [create an online ticket](#) or contact the Students in Temporary Housing Regional Manager and ask that they complete and submit a transportation request form.

Transportation (OMNY Cards or busing if an appropriate route is available) is also available for the remainder of the school year after a child who was homeless becomes permanently housed.

Making space for preschoolers in temporary housing when Pre-K programs are full

Typically, Pre-K classes have up to 18 students with at least two adults (usually one teacher and one paraprofessional). If families find that Pre-K programs near them are **full** or have **long waiting lists**, Pre-K programs may take several steps to help enroll a child living in temporary housing. In order to enroll a 19th or 20th student, the Pre-K class must have at least three staff members (typically one teacher and two paraprofessionals). In order to enroll a 21st student, Pre-K programs can request a class-size variance to add a child living in temporary housing. Please note that the class-size variance process can also be used to add a child with a disability to a class that already has 20 students.

If you need help enrolling a child who is living in temporary housing in 3-K or Pre-K or requesting transportation to the program, please email ProjectLIT@advocatesforchildren.org or call the AFC's Helpline (see page 15).

For more resources to assist preschoolers in temporary housing, you can visit the DOE's website at schools.nyc.gov/STH.

Children in Foster Care

Children in foster care also have additional rights regarding enrollment and transportation. Children in foster care have the right to **immediate enrollment** during the school year to a 3-K or Pre-K program with **open seats**. This means that the program must enroll the child right away, even if the family cannot provide the documents normally necessary for enrollment, such as birth certificates, proof of residency, or immunizations. For assistance with enrollment, you can contact the [Foster Care Coordinator](#) in your borough.

Children in foster care who attend a 3-K or Pre-K have the right to transportation and parents or guardians can receive OMNY Cards to accompany the child to and from school. In limited circumstances, students may qualify for busing if they need it in order to stay in their program when they are placed in foster care or change foster homes. Speak to your child's foster care agency or attorney for more information.

ADDITIONAL RIGHTS FOR PRESCHOOLERS WITH DISABILITIES

3-K and Pre-K application and placement process

All families with age-eligible children, including preschoolers with disabilities, may apply to 3-K and Pre-K programs for the 2026-2027 school year.

Preschool students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) that recommend Special Education Itinerant Teacher (SEIT) services and/or related services only can receive these recommended services at a 3-K or pre-K program and should apply through the 3-K or Pre-K application process. Note: Due to class ratio requirements, children whose IEPs recommend SEIT and/or related services only may not be able to enroll in 3-K or Pre-K programs that have only “special classes in an integrated setting.” You will find a note under these programs online at [MySchools.nyc](#) stating that you should contact the program before applying if your child has an IEP that recommends SEIT and/or related services.

The Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) is responsible for finding an appropriate placement for children whose IEPs recommend a special class or special class in an integrated setting, and the 3-K and Pre-K application processes do not apply to these settings. Children with an IEP recommending a special class or a special class in an integrated setting also have the right to busing. Contact EarlyChildhoodBusing@schools.nyc.gov if transportation is not in place.

Your child’s IEP recommendation may change before the 2026-2027 school year. Therefore, if you have any interest in having your child attend a 3-K or Pre-K program, we encourage you to apply to reserve a seat for your child, regardless of your child’s current IEP recommendation.

If your child does not yet have an IEP and you want the Department of Education to evaluate your child to see if your preschooler needs special education services, you should write a letter to your local [Committee on Preschool Special Education \(CPSE\)](#) office stating that you want your child to receive preschool special education evaluations. See page 14 for the contact information for each CPSE office. For more information on preschool special education services, see AFC’s [Guide to Preschool Special Education](#).

If your child needs a [Section 504 accommodations](#) plan due to your child’s disability, you should contact the 3-K or Pre-K program directly and write a letter asking for a Section 504 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 Section 504 plan.

If your child needs an accessible building, such as a building without steps, due to your child’s disability, you can find out which DOE district schools and Pre-K Centers are accessible on [MySchools.nyc](#) and [schools.nyc.gov/BuildingAccessibility](#). You must call each NYC Early Education Center to find out if it is accessible. If your child does not receive an accessible placement through the application process, the DOE will provide an accessible placement after offers are made. Families seeking help with the admissions process can reach out to the DOE at accessibleadmissions@schools.nyc.gov and ESEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov.

The CPSE is responsible for finding an accessible placement if your child’s IEP recommends a special class or special class in an integrated setting. You should contact the CPSE Administrator assigned to your child’s case if you have questions about your child’s placement.

Making space for preschoolers with disabilities when Pre-K programs are full

If families find that Pre-K programs near them are **full** or have **long waiting lists**, 3-K and Pre-K programs may take several steps to help enroll a child with a disability. Please see page 8 above for more information on how Pre-K programs can make space for additional students, including preschoolers with disabilities, through the class-size variance process.

If you need help enrolling a child in Pre-K or 3-K who has a disability or getting a Section 504 plan or IEP, please contact AFC’s Helpline, Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., at (866) 427-6033.

PRE-K PROGRAMS FOR EMERGENT MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS

The DOE provides some specific programs and supports for Emergent Multilingual Learners (EMLs), children who are learning a language other than English at home. These supports can help EMLs develop the language

skills needed to do well in school. Below you will find information about the language options available to 3-K and Pre-K students.

Dual Language (DL)

Dual Language programs provide instruction in English and another language, with the goal of helping all students to learn both languages. These programs support students whose home language is not English in developing English language skills and students whose home language is English in learning a second language. Families can search for [Dual Language](#) programs by language by visiting [MySchools.nyc](#) and using the filters for Dual Language programs. Families who wish to apply to both the Dual Language and general Pre-K classes at a school should list each option separately on their applications.

Enhanced Language Support (ELS)

Hundreds of 3-K and Pre-K programs at NYC Early Education Centers provide Enhanced Language Support (ELS) programs. ELS programs offer supports to enhance language development in certain target home languages spoken by EMLs. For example, the classroom may have schedules, labels, music, and books in English and in the target home language spoken by students. Enhanced Language Support programs tailor their supports to EMLs who speak particular home languages, so students who speak the home languages that the NYC Early Education Centers specialize in serving will receive some admissions priority. Families can find NYC Early Education Centers that offer ELS programs—in specific languages—by searching [MySchools.nyc](#) and using the filters for a “NYC Early Education Center” and language supports. To learn more about the specific features of any given ELS program, families should contact each NYC Early Education Center directly.

Identifying students prioritized for Dual Language or Enhanced Language Support

If you apply to a DL and/or ELS program, you will be asked to provide your child’s primary language spoken at home. Please note that your child’s primary language may be used to determine their priority for placement in these programs.

Additional language support options

Schools, Pre-K Centers, and NYC Early Education Centers may have other Pre-K and 3-K options for EMLs. Please contact 3-K and Pre-K programs directly for more information about available services and programs that meet the specific language needs of your child.

For more information about Dual Language programs or programs with Enhanced Language Supports, email prekduallanguage@schools.nyc.gov or call 311.

EXTENDED DAY AND YEAR PROGRAMS

The DOE offers free and low-cost early childhood education programs at hundreds of centers throughout the City that are open year round and offer extended hours (up to 10 hours a day) of care and education.

Infant and Toddler Programs

The DOE’s Infant and Toddler programs serve children from six weeks old to age three. Children may be eligible for these programs if their parents receive public assistance, have low incomes and need child care because of their jobs or education, have active cases with the City’s Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) or other preventive service agencies, are living in temporary housing, or are receiving domestic

violence services. Eligibility can be complicated, and some parents need to pay a fee based on a sliding scale. You can learn more at schools.nyc.gov/InfantsToddlers. To see if you are eligible and get help finding a placement, you can call 311, email CCapplication@schools.nyc.gov, contact a [Family Welcome Center](#) or call a Child Care Resource and Referral agency (see pages 12 & 13). You can also learn more and apply for child care at MyCity.nyc.gov.

In September 2026, the DOE will launch a new free childcare program for children who are 2 years old that will not have the above eligibility requirements. For up-to-date information on these programs and for information on how to apply, visit schools.nyc.gov/BrightStarts.

Extended Day and Year

Some of the DOE's 3-K and Pre-K programs are Extended Day and Year (EDY) programs that offer services year-round for up to 10 hours a day. Parents of children born in 2023 and 2022 who are interested in these programs should apply through the DOE's 3-K and Pre-K application (see pages 1-7 above for details) for seats for the 2026-2027 school year. Families can search for "Extended Day/Year" in the online directory. If families apply to these programs using the DOE's online application, the application will provide the eligibility criteria and ask the family if they think they are eligible. If the family clicks "No," the family will not be able to apply to Extended Day and Year programs. If the family clicks "Yes," the 3-K or Pre-K site will ask the family to verify their eligibility during registration. Please note that some families may need to pay a fee.

To find Extended Day and Year seats for the 2025-2026 year, you can search MySchools.nyc for 3-K and Pre-K programs using the "need a seat for this school year?" function and then contact programs directly to confirm they have a seat available. You can also contact a [Family Welcome Center](#) (see page 13) or call a Child Care Resource and Referral agency (see page 12 & 13).

Children with disabilities

All Infant and Toddler, Extended Day and Year programs, and Head Start programs serve children with delays or disabilities. Children with Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) or Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) can receive a wide variety of services at these programs. Preschool students with IEPs that recommend Special Education Itinerant Teacher (SEIT) services and/or related services can receive these recommended services at an Extended Day and Year or Head Start program.

The Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) is responsible for finding an appropriate placement for children whose IEPs recommend a special class or special class in an integrated setting. However, preschool students whose IEPs recommend a full-day (5 hour) or half-day special class or special class in an integrated setting may participate in an Extended Day and Year program or Head Start program for the rest of the day.

Children from Immigrant Families

The [Child Care assistance application](#) that parents must submit to apply for Infant & Toddler Programs and Extended Day and Year programs includes a question about the child's immigration status. Families are asked to confirm that the child who will be attending the program is a United States citizen or has satisfactory immigration status and to provide proof. The application does not ask about immigration status of the parents or other members of the household.

Families seeking to enroll their child in a Head Start seat or in a standard day 3-K or Pre-K class do not need to answer the immigration status question or provide proof of status. Programs that are located in district schools and DOE Pre-K centers, as well as some community-based organizations, will not ask you about your child's immigration status. For more information, see the "Enrollment for Pre-K Extended Day and Year Seats and City Transitional Seats" section of the DOE website at nyc.gov/PreK.

Promise NYC

If your family is not eligible for the Infant and Toddler and Extended Day and Year 3-K and Pre-K programs, you may be eligible for a child care and education program through Promise NYC. **Promise NYC** is a program for New York City families that will cover the cost of child care at a provider of your choice. The program can also cover the cost of afterschool programs for older children. To be eligible, you must be the parent or legal guardian of a child between the ages of 6 weeks to 13 years old, your household income must be less than three times the [federal poverty level](#) (see below), and your family does not otherwise qualify for subsidized child care.

To learn more and apply for assistance, see the contact information on page 14 for the agency in your borough.

HEAD START PROGRAMS

Head Start is a year-round program that supports the academic, mental, social, and emotional development of children from age three until they enter kindergarten. In addition to educational services, programs provide children and their families with health, nutrition, social, and other services.

Children whose families' income is below [the federal poverty guidelines](#) are eligible. Please refer to the poverty guidelines in this chart to determine your family's income eligibility. Head Start programs may have space for some children whose families' income is above the federal poverty guidelines. Contact the Head Start program to find out.

Children in foster care, children living in temporary housing, and children in families receiving public assistance (e.g., Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or Supplemental Security Income) are eligible for Head Start, regardless of family income. Children living in temporary housing also receive priority enrollment.

Household Size	Maximum Income Level (Per Year)
1	\$15,960
2	\$21,640
3	\$27,320
4	\$33,000
5	\$38,680
6	\$44,360
7	\$50,040
8	\$55,720

Finding open Head Start seats

To find Head Start programs near you, enter your address in the [Head Start Center Locator](#). You should contact programs directly to set up a time to apply and enroll your child. You can also contact a Child Care Resource and Referral agency. See below.

Many Head Start programs used to also be DOE 3-K and Pre-K programs. The DOE is offering “City Transitional” seats during the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years. Parents with children born in 2022 can apply for September 2026 placement through the DOE’s Pre-K application process (see pages 1-7) or through the DOE’s 3-K application for children born in 2023 by the end of February. To find a Transitional 3-K or Pre-K seat for the current school year, you can use the “need a seat for this school year?” filter on [MySchools.nyc](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCIES

For help finding early childhood education programs for your child, you can contact the **New York City Child Care Resource and Referral Consortium**, toll-free at **(888) 469-5999**. These centers can help you find Head Start, Infant & Toddler, 3-K and Pre-K programs. Child care specialists will ask you for information about the type of program you need and your children’s ages. Then, they will offer a list of

programs. You will need to contact the programs to see if they have open seats. For more information, visit www.nyccrr.org.

You can also contact a Child Care Resource and Referral agency directly:

Child Development Support Corporation

Tel: (718) 398-6738; (718) 398-2050

Website: <https://cdscnyc.org>

Chinese-American Planning Council

Tel: (212) 941-1828 (in English) or (212) 792-4597

(in Chinese)

Email: childcare@cpc-nyc.org

Website: <https://childcarecpc.org>

The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc.

Tel: (212) 206-1090

Email: info@chcfinc.org

Website: <https://www.chcfinc.org>

Day Care Council of New York, Inc.

Tel: (212) 206-7818

Email: info@dccnyinc.org

Website: <https://www.dccnyinc.org>

PROMISE NYC AGENCIES

Contact the Promise NYC agency in your area to learn more and apply for assistance:

Brooklyn:

[Center for Family Life](#)

443 39th Street, Brooklyn NY 11232

(718) 438-9500

Email: info@centerforfamilylife.org

Manhattan & Bronx:

[Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation](#) (NMIC)

45 Wadsworth Avenue, New York, NY 10033

Call: Tuesdays 10 AM-12 PM at (929)-415-3999

Email: promisenyc@nmic.org

Queens:

[Chinese-American Planning Council](#) (CPC)

165 Eldridge Street, New York, NY 10002

Complete an [online survey](#)

Email: rcalabretta@cpc-nyc.org

WhatsApp: (934) 223-9652.

Staten Island

[La Colmena](#)

774 Port Richmond Ave, Staten Island, NY 10302

Complete an online survey in [English](#) or [Spanish](#)

Call: (718) 442-7700

Email: judith@lacolmenanyc.org

DOE FAMILY WELCOME CENTERS

BOROUGH	DISTRICTS SERVED	EMAIL ADDRESS	LOCATION
Bronx	7, 9, 10	FordhamFWC@schools.nyc.gov	One Fordham Plaza, 7 th Floor
Bronx	8, 11, 12	ZeregaFWC@schools.nyc.gov	1230 Zerega Ave., Rm. 24
Brooklyn	16, 17, 18, 22	OceanFWC@schools.nyc.gov	1780 Ocean Ave., 3 rd Floor
Brooklyn	13, 15, 20, 21	89thFWC@schools.nyc.gov	415 89 th St., 4 th Floor
Brooklyn	14, 19, 23, 32	StMarksFWC@schools.nyc.gov	1665 St. Mark's Ave., Rm. 116
Manhattan	1, 2, 4	333FWC@schools.nyc.gov	333 7 th Avenue, 12 th Floor
Manhattan	3, 5, 6	MorningsideFWC@schools.nyc.gov	123 Morningside Drive, Room 235

Queens	24, 30	QueensPlazaFWC@schools.nyc.gov	28-11 Queens Plaza North, 3 rd Fl.
Queens	25, 26	LindenFWC@schools.nyc.gov	30-48 Linden Pl., 2 nd Floor
Queens	27, 28, 29	SutphinFWC@schools.nyc.gov	90-27 Sutphin Blvd., 1 st Floor
Staten Island	31	BayStreetFWC@Schools.nyc.gov	365 Bay Street, Room 102,

Visit schools.nyc.gov/FWC for information on office hours and instructions for visiting.

DOE COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION (Including Committees on Preschool Special Education)

REGION	LOCATION	DISTRICTS	EMAIL ADDRESS
1	1 Fordham Plaza, 7th Floor Bronx, New York 10458	7, 9, 10	CPSE1support@schools.nyc.gov CSE1@schools.nyc.gov
2	3450 E. Tremont Avenue, 2nd Floor Bronx, New York 10465	8, 11, 12	CPSE2support@schools.nyc.gov CSE2@schools.nyc.gov
3	30-48 Linden Place Flushing, New York 11354 90-27 Sutphin Boulevard Jamaica, New York 11435	25, 26 28, 29	CPSE3support@schools.nyc.gov CSE3@schools.nyc.gov
4	28-11 Queens Plaza North, 5th Floor Long Island City, New York 11101 82-01 Rockaway Boulevard, 2nd Floor Ozone Park, New York 11416	24, 30 27	CPSE4support@schools.nyc.gov CSE4@schools.nyc.gov
5	1665 St. Marks Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11233	19, 23, 32	CPSE5support@schools.nyc.gov CSE5@schools.nyc.gov
6	5619 Flatlands Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11234	17, 18, 22	CPSE6support@schools.nyc.gov CSE6@schools.nyc.gov
7	415 89th Street Brooklyn, New York 11209	20, 21	CPSE7BKsupport@schools.nyc.gov CSE7@schools.nyc.gov
8	131 Livingston Street, 4th Floor Brooklyn, New York 11201	13, 14, 15, 16	CPSE8support@schools.nyc.gov CSE8@schools.nyc.gov
9	333 Seventh Avenue, 4th Floor New York, New York 10001	1, 2, 4	CPSE9support@schools.nyc.gov CSE9@schools.nyc.gov
10	388 West 125th Street New York, New York 10027	3, 5, 6	CPSE10support@schools.nyc.gov CSE10@schools.nyc.gov
11	715 Ocean Terrace, Building A Staten Island, New York 10301	31	CPSE11support@schools.nyc.gov CSE11@schools.nyc.gov

Visit <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/special-education/help/committees-on-special-education> for additional contact information.

STUDENTS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING REGIONAL MANAGERS

OFFICE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT BOROUGH CENTER LOCATION & DISTRICT		STH REGIONAL MANAGER	EMAIL ADDRESS
Bronx	I Fordham Plaza, Rm. 816 Bronx, NY 10458	7, 11	Cristine Figueroa CFigueroa20@schools.nyc.gov 646-995-0299
Bronx	I Fordham Plaza, Rm. 816 Bronx, NY 10458	8	Joyln Lisojo- Engleton JLisojo@schools.nyc.gov 929-286-8077
Bronx	I Fordham Plaza, Rm. 816 Bronx, NY 10458	9	Madeline Warden MWarden2@schools.nyc.gov 929-568-7560
Bronx	I Fordham Plaza, Rm. 816 Bronx, NY 10458	10	Stephanie Dyer SDyer@schools.nyc.gov 646-584-2973
Bronx	I Fordham Plaza, Rm. 816 Bronx, NY 10458	12	Bak Harris BHarris6@schools.nyc.gov 929-625-1481
Brooklyn	131 Livingston St., Rm. 408 Brooklyn, NY 11201	13, 15, 16	Emily Mann EMann4@schools.nyc.gov 929-625-1470
Brooklyn	1780 Ocean Avenue, Rm. 1B Brooklyn, NY 11230	14, 17, 18, 21	Charmaine Gaynor CGaynor@schools.nyc.gov 929-738-0143
Brooklyn	1780 Ocean Avenue, Rm. 1B Brooklyn, NY 11230 131 Livingston St., 4th Fl. Brooklyn, NY 11201	19, 32 23	Jason Aubin JAubin2@schools.nyc.gov 929-568-7543
Brooklyn	131 Livingston St., 4th Fl. Brooklyn, NY 11201	22	Monic Serhan mserhan2@schools.nyc.gov 929-625-4953
Brooklyn	1780 Ocean Ave., Rm. 1 Brooklyn, NY 11230	20, 32	Lucia Figueras LFigueras@schools.nyc.gov 646-995-0121
Staten Island	131 Livingston St., 4th Fl. Brooklyn, NY 11201	31	Lucia Figueras LFigueras@schools.nyc.gov 646-995-0121
Manhattan	333 7th Avenue, 7 th Fl. New York, NY 10001	1, 3, 6	Arian Halsey AHalsey6@schools.nyc.gov 929-738-3947
Manhattan	333 7th Avenue, 7 th Fl. New York, NY 10001	2,	Iris Gersten IGersten@schools.nyc.gov 917-339-1718
Queens	333 7th Avenue, 7 th Fl. New York, NY 10001	4	Cecilio (Bo) Diaz CDiaz@schools.nyc.gov 917-339-1698
Manhattan	333 7th Avenue, 7 th Fl. New York, NY 10001	5	D'Asia Woods DWoods9@schools.nyc.gov 646-724-9984
Queens	333 7th Avenue, 7 th Fl. New York, NY 10001	24	D'Asia Woods DWoods9@schools.nyc.gov 646-724-9984
Queens	333 7th Avenue, 7 th Fl. New York, NY 10001	25	Arian Halsey AHalsey6@schools.nyc.gov 929-738-3947
Queens	333 7th Avenue, 7 th Fl. New York, NY 10001	26, 30	Cecilio (Bo) Diaz CDiaz@schools.nyc.gov 917-339-1698
Queens	131 Livingston St., Rm. 408 Brooklyn, NY 11201	27	Emily Mann EMann4@schools.nyc.gov
Queens	131 Livingston Street, 4 th Fl. Brooklyn, NY 11201	28	Monica Serhan mserhan2@schools.nyc.gov 929-625-4953
Queens	131 Livingston Street, 4 th Fl. Brooklyn, NY 11201	29	Lucia Figueras LFigueras@schools.nyc.gov 646-995-0121

Learn more at schools.nyc.gov/STH or email STHInfo@schools.nyc.gov for help reaching the right Regional Manager.

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Advocates for Children of New York, Inc.

151 West 30th Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10001

Jill Chaifetz Education Helpline: 1-866-427-6033 (toll free), Monday—Thursday, 10am—4pm

www.advocatesforchildren.org

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