

About This Type of Care

Different options for school-age care may exist in your community. Local schools may provide care during the before- and after-school hours and may contract with an outside provider such as the YMCA or Boys and Girls Club to offer this type of care.

Some family child care providers and child care centers also offer school-age care. Other programs, such as parks and recreation departments, community-based programs, and churches may offer this type of care as well.

It is always important to ask your school-age provider or check with your local [Child Care Resource and Referral agency](#) to check to see if your provider is required to be licensed. You may also want to check to see if your school-age provider participates in your state's [Quality Rating and Improvement System](#).

Tips for Choosing This Type of Care

- Ask to see a copy of the program's license and inspection history. These reports provide you valuable information about the provider's health and safety compliance. Click on [Child Care by State Resource](#) to find out more information on licensing and inspection reports in your state.
- Confirm that every adult working or volunteering in the program has had a comprehensive background check.
- Ask the provider about the number of adults and children present (staff to child ratios).
- Ask the provider if they offer care during times of school closures due to weather.
- For more information on questions to ask your school-age provider, [see our School-Age Program Checklist](#).