



Frequently Asked Questions Las Preguntas Frecuentes

1. What is pre-kindergarten (pre-k)?

New York City's pre-k system provides a rich educational experience for four-year-olds in free, high quality, full day settings. Children born in 2010 are eligible for pre-k education for the 2014-2015 school year. New York City's pre-k programs are located in public schools and in Community Based Early Childhood Centers (CBECCs) provided by the Department of Education. CBECCs that provide pre-k include ACS' *EarlyLearn NYC* programs, licensed or registered day care providers, Head Start programs, nursery schools, preschool education providers, non-public schools, libraries and museums. *EarlyLearn NYC* programs provide a full-day of quality early care and education, including pre-k, as well as services for younger children. To find a pre-k CBECC go to <http://nyc.gov/prek>.

2. What is a voucher?

A voucher is a certificate/document issued to families that are eligible to receive a child care subsidy. The voucher is used to purchase child care services with non-ACS contracted/funded child care providers. A voucher may be used in private, licensed child care programs, licensed/registered family child care providers, and informal providers (relative, neighbor, or friend).

3. I currently have a voucher. Can I use my voucher to enroll my child in pre-k at an *EarlyLearn NYC* program?

EarlyLearn NYC programs are contractors of ACS and as a result a voucher is not needed to receive child care services at one of the many *EarlyLearn NYC* programs across the five boroughs. If you have already been found eligible for an ACS child care subsidy, you are eligible for services at an *EarlyLearn NYC* program, including their pre-k services.

ACS' *EarlyLearn NYC* programs provide quality services that are monitored by the City so that children receive safe and developmentally appropriate care. All *EarlyLearn NYC* programs include pre-k for four year olds. Your child will interact with other children and will gain important school readiness skills. All *EarlyLearn NYC* centers are licensed and regulated by the City and State to monitor the health and safety of the children.

4. Will I lose my voucher if I enroll my child in an *EarlyLearn NYC* pre-k program?

A voucher is not necessary for enrolling in any *EarlyLearn NYC* program. If you continue to be eligible for a child care subsidy and can demonstrate the need for services beyond the 8 to 10 hour *EarlyLearn NYC* day, you can use your voucher to receive such services. Please call the ACS voucher enrollment unit at 212-361-5793 or 212-361-5796 to discuss changing the status of your voucher and your child care options. If you do not need additional services beyond the 8 to 10 *EarlyLearn NYC* hours, you will have no need to utilize a voucher. You may also contact the NYC Child Care Resource & Referral consortium at 1-888-469-5999 for more information on child care options.



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5. If I enroll my child in an *EarlyLearn NYC* program for pre-k services can I get a voucher for beyond the *EarlyLearn NYC* day?

EarlyLearn NYC programs provide child care services for 8 to 10 hours a day, year round. If you currently have a voucher, continue to be eligible for a child care subsidy and can demonstrate a need for child care beyond the 8 to 10 hours of *EarlyLearn NYC*, you can continue to utilize your voucher to receive such services. Vouchers may be used in private, licensed child care programs, licensed/registered family child care providers, and enrolled informal providers (relative, neighbor, or friend). If you do not need additional services beyond the 8 to 10 *EarlyLearn NYC* hours, you will have no need to utilize a voucher. Please call the ACS voucher enrollment unit at 212-361-5793 or 212-361-5796 if you would like to discuss changing the status of your voucher or your child care options.

6. If I have a voucher and decide to enroll my child in an *EarlyLearn NYC* pre-k program and do not need the voucher for additional hours of service, can I get a voucher when my child starts kindergarten for after school services?

If you are still eligible for subsidized child care when your child starts kindergarten, you may be eligible to receive a voucher for after school services if you can demonstrate the need for such services beyond the kindergarten day. New vouchers are issued based on available funding. Since funding is extremely limited, your child may be put on a voucher wait list.

You can also apply for free after-school programs through the Department of Youth Community Development (DYCD), such as Out of School Time programs located at community based organizations. For more information, please visit www.nyc.gov/dycd.

7. If my child is enrolled in an *EarlyLearn NYC* program for pre-k services, which of the hours are pre-k and which of the hours are *EarlyLearn* hours? Is there a difference?

There are no specified pre-k hours within *EarlyLearn NYC*. *EarlyLearn NYC* is an early care and education program that uses multiple sources of funding, including pre-k funding. The quality of the service is for the entire *EarlyLearn* day and not just the hours of the pre-k funded portion of the day.

8. What happens to my voucher if I enroll my child in a DOE public school or non *EarlyLearn NYC* program for pre-k services?

The City's pre-k program services are free. As a result, you will no longer need to utilize the voucher for the time your child is in a DOE approved pre-k program. If you continue to be eligible for a child care subsidy and can demonstrate a need for care beyond the pre-k program's hours of service, you may be eligible for a voucher. Please call the ACS Voucher Enrollment Unit at 212-361-5793 or 212-361-5796 for further assistance.



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9. Who should be notified if I currently have a voucher, but I would like to enroll my child in an *EarlyLearn NYC* pre-k program in the fall?

Please contact 311 or the ACS Call Center at 212-835-7610 for assistance finding an *EarlyLearn* program in your area. The *EarlyLearn NYC* program of your choice will be able to provide you with all of the necessary documentation to enroll your child in pre-k. Once completed, the *EarlyLearn NYC* program will notify ACS of your child's enrollment. Please note you will need to contact the ACS Voucher Enrollment Unit at 212-361-5793 or 212-361-5796 in order to discuss the status of your voucher, especially if you continue to need additional hours of service.

10. Who should be notified if I currently have a voucher but my child will be attending a DOE public school, non *EarlyLearn NYC*, or *EarlyLearn NYC* pre-k program in the fall and he/she will not need services beyond the pre-k program hours?

The ACS Voucher Enrollment Unit should be notified at 212-361-5793 or 212-361-5796 of your enrollment in an approved DOE pre-k program.

11. What if I have one child enrolled in a free pre-k program, but have other children utilizing a voucher. Will their care be affected?

No, if there are other children in your family utilizing a voucher, their subsidized child care enrollment will not be disrupted. However, if the child who will be enrolled in a free pre-k program is or had previously been utilizing a voucher and child care beyond the hours of the pre-k program are not needed, the voucher for this child will be discontinued. Please alert the ACS Voucher Enrollment Unit at 212-361-5793 or 212-361-5796 of your enrollment in an approved DOE pre-k program.

If you later choose to move your four year old to a different child care program that does not participate in *EarlyLearn NYC* for all or part of the day, and the family remains eligible for subsidized care, you may re-claim your voucher to provide for the four year old child's care.



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12. What changes can I expect to my weekly parent fee if I am required to pay?

The City's pre-k is a free program. You will not be charged fees for pre-k services. Please note that any time that your child spends in the *EarlyLearn NYC* program is considered to be subsidized child care services for which the parent fee requirements apply, so any four year old in pre-k services at an *EarlyLearn NYC* program is a part-time recipient of subsidized services.

Child care parent fees are based on family size and income. The fee covers all children receiving child care services; it is important to note that you will be charged the fee weekly, even if your children do not attend the program. Also, if a family has a six-month infant and a 4-year-old child, the fee will be assigned to the youngest child and the respective provider will collect it.

If the only child you have in subsidized child care who is receiving full time services is pre-k eligible, your fee will be adjusted to part-time during the school year (September-June) and then readjusted to full time during the summer months (July and August).

If any child in your family is receiving full-time subsidized child care services, then you will continue to be charged a full-time fee, and the program serving your youngest child in full-time care would collect the fee, as always.

If all of your children are receiving part-time subsidized child care services, the part-time fee will continue to be assigned to the youngest child and be collected by that program.

Head Start families will continue to not pay fees for services.

If you are eligible for a fee adjustment, a revised notice will be sent to your listed address.