



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. I am currently receiving Cash Assistance and am employed or engaged in a work activity or approved training program. Can I enroll my child in an *EarlyLearn NYC* pre-k program?

Yes. If you are receiving Cash Assistance and are employed or engaged in a work activity or an approved training program, you are eligible to receive child care services at one of the many *EarlyLearn NYC* programs across the five boroughs. *EarlyLearn NYC* services are offered 8 to 10 hours per day, year round, in home and center based settings.

EarlyLearn NYC programs provide quality services and safe, developmentally appropriate care. 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.

3. What if I enroll my child in an *EarlyLearn NYC* program for pre-k services, but I continue to need child care beyond the hours of the pre-k *EarlyLearn NYC* program?

EarlyLearn NYC programs provide child care services for 8 to 10 hours a day, year round. If you are eligible for child care services and can demonstrate the need for child care services beyond the 8 to 10 hours of *EarlyLearn NYC*, your HRA Job Center can assist you with making alternate child care arrangements for the additional hours. Please visit your HRA Job Center to determine your options. You may also contact the NYC Child Care Resource & Referral consortium at 1-888-469-5999 for more information on child care options.

4. What happens to my child care through the Human Resources Administration (HRA)/Administration for Children's Services (ACS) if I enroll my child in a DOE public school or non-*EarlyLearn NYC* program for pre-k services?

If you enroll your child in a pre-k setting offered by the DOE or an approved DOE program, you may no longer need to utilize full-day child care through HRA/ACS. If you are eligible for child care services and can demonstrate the need for services beyond the total number of hours received at the pre-k program, you may be eligible to receive additional child care benefits for hours outside of the pre-k program. Your HRA Job Center can assist you with making alternate child care arrangements for the additional hours. Please visit your HRA Job Center to determine your options.



Frequently Asked Questions Las Preguntas Frecuentes

5. Who should be notified if I would like to enroll my child in an *EarlyLearn NYC* pre-k program in the fall?

Please visit your HRA Job Center for a referral to an *EarlyLearn NYC* program that has pre-k services and to obtain the necessary enrollment paperwork. Or, if you know of an *EarlyLearn NYC* program you would like your child to attend, you can visit the program and they will provide you with all of the necessary documentation. Once you have completed the paperwork and return it to your HRA Job Center, they will complete the enrollment process.

6. Who should be notified if I currently have child care through HRA/ACS but my child will be attending a DOE public school or non *EarlyLearn NYC* pre-k program in the fall and does not need services beyond the pre-k program hours?

Please visit your HRA Job Center in order for them to record the change in service.

7. My child is cared for through HRA/ACS by an informal provider (relative, neighbor, or friend). If I enroll him/her in a pre-k program, can my provider be paid for the additional hours that I need?

Yes, as long as your approved activity/employment requires additional hours that are not covered by the pre-k program, you may also have another provider or program care for your children for the remainder of the day. Your HRA Job Center will assist you with the enrollments.

8. Can my informal provider continue to get paid (by HRA/ACS) for a full day if I enroll in a DOE approved pre-k program?

Each situation is different. If your normal hours of employment are non-traditional hours that are not covered by the pre-k program, full-time additional care may be provided. If a pre-k program meets all of your child care needs, no additional child care will be authorized. Please visit your HRA Job Center to determine your options.

9. If I give up my informal provider to enroll in a pre-k program, what happens when my child attends kindergarten next year? Will I be able to go back to my informal provider for after-school services?

Yes. You will be eligible as long as you continue to have an active Cash Assistance case, remain employed or participate in an HRA work activity or approved training, and your informal provider is re-approved for payment. Your HRA Job Center can process your child care enrollments. Please visit your HRA Job Center to determine your options.



Frequently Asked Questions Las Preguntas Frecuentes

10. If I enroll my child in a DOE approved pre-k program, and then I begin to work and no longer receive Cash Assistance, will I be able to use my informal provider again for after school care once my child begins kindergarten?

Maybe. If you qualify for the twelve month Transitional Child Care benefit, you are eligible for child care subsidized services. If you don't qualify for TCC and are no longer on Cash Assistance, you could apply for a low income voucher for informal care; if you receive a voucher, and your informal provider is re-approved for payment, you may use your informal provider again for after school care. However, there is currently a waiting list for child care vouchers; vouchers are issued as funds permit. You can also apply for free after-school programs through the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, such as Out of School Time programs located at community based organizations. Please go to www.nyc.gov/dycd for more information.