

Additional Child Care Options

Pre-Schools

Pre-schools (also known as nursery schools) offer group programs primarily for three to five year old children. Most programs offer sessions that are two to three hours long and usually are open when the local public school is in session. Children may enroll for specific sessions and for specified days. Most Pre-schools are licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Some pre-schools are eligible to operate as license-exempt.

School-Age Child Care

School-age child care programs are designed to provide care and activities for children five to 12 years of age. Programs may operate before and/or after the regular school day, during school holidays and/or during summer vacations. School-age programs may be licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Some school-age programs are eligible to operate as license-exempt.

Head Start and Early Head Start

Head Start and Early Head Start programs are comprehensive child development programs serving low income children from birth to five years of age. Most local Early Head Start programs offer services in the child's home. Head Start programs can be either full day or part day programs and may operate all year or specified months. Head Start programs are licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Preschool For All (PFA)

Preschool for All is a program that is funded by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). This program began in 2006 to make voluntary preschool available to all three- and four-year olds in Illinois. Preschool for All programs are now operating in a variety of settings across Illinois within schools, child care programs, community organizations, faith based organizations and community colleges. Offering the program in diverse settings give parents more opportunity for their child's participation in preschool.

The easiest way to find a Preschool for All program in your community is to contact your local school district or by clicking on the ISBE link below. This link will connect you to a list of current Preschool for All programs within your county.

<http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/html/directories.htm>