

PRESCHOOL FOR ALL



By fostering social, emotional and thinking skills, Preschool for All helps prepare children for kindergarten and their school career.

Options may include schools, child care centers, family child care networks, community organizations, private preschools, faith-based organizations, community colleges and other settings.

Contact your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency by calling Illinois Network of Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies at:

(877)20-CHILD

to find programs near you.

What parents should know about Preschool for All:

Preschool for All is Governor Blagojevich's exciting initiative to make voluntary preschool available to all 3- and 4-year-olds. That means that as a parent, you decide what early learning experiences are best for your child.

Children who get a high quality preschool experience are more likely to succeed in school and in life. Studies show they are more likely to graduate high school, earn more as adults, and are less likely to need special education. By fostering social, emotional and thinking skills, Preschool for All helps prepare children for kindergarten and their school career.

Preschool for All is a high quality Early Childhood education program for children 3 and 4 years old. Preschool for All programs operate on a school calendar, the same as your local school district. Classes are 2.5 hours long, 5 days a week. Programs may be located in schools, child care centers, community organizations private preschools, faith-based organizations, community colleges and other settings.

What does Preschool for All cost?

Preschool for All programs are funded by the Illinois State Board of Education to provide a half day preschool program (2.5 hours a day) at no cost to parents. Parents obtain free school by applying to providers funded by the State Board for space in a preschool program; the State Board does not provide funds directly to parents. Parents who need additional child care may extend their child's day using their own funds or a child care subsidy if they qualify.

How do I know if my child is eligible?

All children are eligible, but it will take time to build up to meet expected demand. Initially, availability will vary based on local capacity and need. During the expansion, programs that serve primarily at-risk children will get first priority, followed by programs that serve primarily children from families making up to four times the federal poverty level, or \$80,000 for a family of four.

How long does the program run?

Preschool for All programs operate on a school-year basis; however, this may vary from program to program depending on where preschool is offered. Options may include schools, child care centers, family child care networks, community organizations, private preschools, faith-based organizations, community colleges and other settings.

When will Preschool for All begin?

Programs are gearing up for the fall, when 10,000 additional preschool seats will become available. Governor Blagojevich will ask the legislature to make additional investments each year until all children are reached. Find a program near you at http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/pdf/ecbg_contact_list_06.pdf.

Are there options for infants and toddlers?

Preschool for All also expands resources for at-risk infants and toddlers ages birth to three. These programs generally focus on strengthening parents as a child's first teacher and/or enhancing quality for infants and toddlers in child care.

Where can I find more information?

Go to http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/pdf/ecbg_contact_list_06.pdf to find a program in your area. Or call the Illinois State Board of Education at 1.866.262.6663.