



Pre-K Resource Kit

The first five years are a period of rapid brain development that sets the stage for later learning. High-quality pre-K programs for three- and four-year-olds capitalize on this window of opportunity to build core skills that kids need to thrive. Use this Resource Kit to help you start your Pre-K search.

Affordable Options: A number of programs offer free or subsidized rates to make pre-K accessible for all families.	
Head Start	Head Start is a Federal program that promotes the school readiness of children from birth to age five from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development.
St. Louis Public Schools	SLPS offers full-day, full-week pre-K free of charge for students up to age 5 living in the SLPS attendance boundary. Use Navigate STL School's Search tool to see the SLPS pre-K options.
Charter Schools	Charter public schools enroll students living in the St. Louis Public School attendance boundary free of charge. Use Navigate STL School's Search tool to see the Charter school pre-K options.
Childcare Subsidies	Missouri offers childcare subsidies for low-income families with children under 13 that can be used for pre-K.
Tuition assistance at Independent Schools	Independent schools may offer tuition assistance for families that qualify.

Consider looking up Licensure and Accreditation

- **State licensure** indicates a program meets the basic requirement for safety and instruction. Check a program's licensure status.
- **Accreditation** indicates that a program meets a higher bar for program quality.
 - [Check Missouri Accreditation status here](#)
 - [Check National Association for the Education of Young Children \(NAEYC\) status accreditation here](#)

Additional Services

Many programs offer a range of additional supports that promote family wellbeing and students' readiness to learn. Feel free to check the ones that are a priority for your family as you start your search.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Before and after school care | <input type="checkbox"/> Connections to social services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special education services | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical, dental, and mental health services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English as a Second Language (ESL) programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult education programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign language instruction | <input type="checkbox"/> Snacks and meals served |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |

Need additional support finding an early childhood program?

- [Contact Child Care Aware Missouri](#)
- [Access NAEYC's resources for families](#)

