

Child Care in Pittsburgh: What to Expect

Child Care Costs vary by region, type of care, amenities and scheduling needs. The U.S. Department of Labor's [National Database of Childcare Prices](#) offers child care price data by provider type, age of children and county characteristics. The cost of child care centers in Pittsburgh, especially those located near Carnegie Mellon University, tends to be higher than these averages, which are based on data available from 2008 to 2018. Child care centers typically increase their tuition prices each year, and different centers have different tuition rates, payment plans and financial assistance opportunities. Tuition also varies based on the age of the child, with infant care typically being the most expensive in most child care programs. Programs may provide financial assistance if your family qualifies. More information on financial assistance can be found in our guide to [Affording Quality Child Care \[pdf\]](#).

Availability also varies by region, the age of the child requiring care, and your preferred type of care. Many programs in Pittsburgh have waitlists; your first-choice child care center may not be immediately available, so it can be beneficial to determine multiple providers that could work for your family's needs. Specific hours of operation are set per individual center, though most child care centers in Pittsburgh operate between the general hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Some programs offer part time or half day care, but this scheduling option is less common for infants. The [family care concierge specialists](#) can research and provide updated availability information to help you find potential programs. The [Allegheny County Child Care Finder](#) and [Pennsylvania COMPASS Child Care](#) search tools are additional resources on child care providers in your desired location.

Ways to access child care can also be found in our [Child Care Options to Consider \[pdf\]](#) guide, and resources for accessing interim child care resources in the Pittsburgh area can be found in our [Interim Child Care Options \[pdf\]](#) resource.

Quality of child care is an important consideration for families. While the family care concierge specialists cannot recommend or endorse any particular provider, there are designations that the specialists may share when offering child care options to help you make an informed decision, including programs such as Keystone STARS and NAEYC accreditation for licensed providers. Our resource for [Choosing High-Quality Child Care \[pdf\]](#) provides additional considerations when selecting care. Other helpful resources on quality are the Department of Human Services' [Guide to Choosing Quality Child Care \[pdf\]](#) and Trying Together's [How to Find, Choose, and Pay for High-Quality Child Care Guide \[pdf\]](#).

This resource is meant as a general overview; please reach out to the [family care concierge specialists](#) for guidance uniquely tailored to your family's situation. Further resources can be found on the [Family Care Initiatives: Family and Dependent Care Benefits and Resources](#) webpage.

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