



Family Care Initiatives

Child Care in Pittsburgh: What to Expect

Child care costs vary by region, type of care (in-home, center, home-based provider), amenities, and your scheduling needs. A [report](#) by Child Care Aware provided the following annual estimates for child care costs in Pennsylvania:

- \$10,319 for infants
- \$8,601 for 4-year-olds
- \$5,520 for school-age children

Please note that these are general figures for the entire state. The cost of child care centers in Pittsburgh, especially those located near CMU, tend to be higher than these averages. A sample survey of centers located in Oakland, Shadyside and Squirrel Hill yielded the following annual estimates for full time care:

- \$16,487 for infants
- \$14,582 for toddlers
- \$12,504 for preschool

Your Family Care Concierge Specialist can assist you in finding specific pricing information for providers that meet your needs. There are also programs through the Department of Human Services that may provide financial assistance if your family qualifies, such as [PreK Counts](#), [Child Care Works](#), [Head Start](#), and [Early Head Start](#).

Availability also varies by region, the age of the child requiring care, and your preferred type of care. In Allegheny County, there are 817 child care provider locations, according to the [Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning](#). [Trying Together's "Find Child Care" Tool](#) is one resource on child care providers in your desired location. Many programs 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. Your Family Care Concierge Specialists can research and provide updated availability information and help you find a variety of options.

Quality is an important consideration for families. While your Family Care Concierge Specialist cannot recommend or endorse any particular provider, there are designations that your 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. The Department of Human Services' [Guide to Choosing Quality Child Care](#) and Trying Together's [How to Find, Choose, and Pay for High-Quality Child Care Guide](#) provide additional considerations when selecting care.

This fact sheet is meant as a general overview; please reach out to a [Family Care Concierge Specialist](#) to receive guidance uniquely tailored to your family's situation.