

After-School Programs

*A guide for parents of future
Kindergartners or Grade 1 Children.*

They begin when the school day ends!

After-school programs provide children with a variety of supervised activities while their families are at work, in school, or who want their child to be with other children.

The goal of after-school programs is to **support** children's healthy **social and emotional development**. Activities vary according to age and have different focuses.

Most programs **offer a mix of:**

- ▲ Homework support
- ▲ Enrichment activities
- ▲ Arts and crafts
- ▲ Sports and recreation
- ▲ Field trips

The cost of after-school programs varies. Generally, it costs \$300 to \$500 per month for a five day a week program.

Also offered at some sites are 2 or 3-day per week programs. These cost less than the 5-day programs.

Some programs offer state income eligible **financial assistance** in the form of vouchers and/or subsidized slots.

Programs may also offer **scholarships**.



January:

Think about your needs.

Start thinking about what your family needs from an after-school program in January (**9 months before your child enters Kindergarten**).

If your child is **entering Grade 1**, start thinking about what your family needs from an after-school program at the **same time that you register your child for school**.

Looking early helps a family be sure that it finds a program that best suits everyone.

February & March:

Check what is available.

Make a list of the after-school programs that fit your needs.

Visit the programs on your list. Call first to make an appointment for your visit.

Decide which program or programs you would like your child to attend.

April:

Apply to programs.

Contact the after-school program and ask how to apply.

Complete and submit any required forms.

Application processes vary from program to program. Some programs require families to apply one time – in April or May. Other programs ask families to register several times during the school year for specialty classes.

What should I consider when choosing an after-school program?

▲ **Type of after-school program:**

- Do I need an after-school program every day of the week or just some days of the week?
- Do I need an after-school program that is open during school vacations, school holidays, and on snow days so I can go to work, school, run errands or attend to other family members?

▲ **Location of after-school program:**

- Do I want my child to attend a program in his/her school building?
- Do I want a program that is close to my home or my work?
- Is this location easy for me to get to on public transportation, by walking, or by car?

▲ **Transportation to after-school program:**

- If the after-school program is not located in my child's school, am I comfortable with my child taking a school bus to another school?
- Is the after-school program one mile away from my child's school so that my child qualifies to ride the Cambridge Public School bus to that after-school school?
- Is there a bus that runs between the school my child attends and the school where the after-school program is?
- Does the program transport my child from his/her school to the program's location?

▲ **Program hours:**

- What time does the after-school program begin and end?
- What are the program's hours during early release days, school vacation week, and on snow days?

Inclusion:

DHSP welcomes individuals with disabilities who meet the basic eligibility requirements of the out-of-school time programs or who with the provision of reasonable accommodations will be able to meet the basic eligibility requirements. Families are encouraged to **contact Nicole Horton, the Inclusion Specialist** with questions regarding enrollment, types of services and the assessment process.

617-349-6200 or nhorton@cambridgema.gov

▲ **What type of after-school program best suits my child?**

- What interests my child?
- Will my child be comfortable at this program?
- How are the children in the program divided into age groups?

▲ **After-school program visit:**

- Did I like the after-school program I visited?
- Did the staff seem warm and friendly?
- Were the children happy and participating in the teacher's activities?

▲ **Cost of the program:**

- Can I afford this program?
- Does the program offer to help pay fees?



Resources families can turn to in order to find an after-school program.

By Phone:

Jayne Cantor

Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Program
A list of programs for Kindergarten and Grade 1 children
617-349-6086
(Monday-Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Dial 211 to speak to a person

This is a toll free service offered by United Way.
Follow the prompts about looking for quality childcare
to connect with a person.

The Child Care Choices of Boston

A list of state licensed programs
617-542-5437.
(This agency serves Cambridge residents.)

On the Web:

Department of Human Service Programs

City of Cambridge
Information about the many programs they offer
www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP

The Cambridge Somerville Resource Guide

A comprehensive list of programs located in Cambridge
and Somerville
www.cambridgesomervilleresourceguide.org

The Department of Early Education and Care

A listing of licensed after-school programs in Cambridge
www.mass.gov/edu/birth-grade-12/early-education-and-care/find-early-education-and-care-programs/

In Print:

The Cambridge Resource Guide (.pdf)

Department of Human Service Programs
www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP

Most **programs group children** into age clusters
such as Kindergarten to Grade 2. Some programs
may have larger age group clusters such as
Kindergarten to Grade 5.

Programs located in Cambridge

Banneker Extended Enrichment (BEE) Program † at the
Banneker School and only open to Banneker students
617-497-7771 x224

CAPI Parent Cooperative † in the Cambridgeport School
617-497-0063

Department of Human Services After-School Programs

† at the Fletcher-Maynard Academy, M. L. King, Jr.,
Morse and Peabody Schools
617-349-6254

Department of Human Service Community Schools

Program † in all elementary schools
617-349-6236

Dragonfly Parent Cooperative † at Graham and Parks
School
617-547-1116

The King Open Extend Day (KOED) † This program is
only open to children who attend the King Open School.
617-349-6078

Afterworks † 838 Massachusetts Avenue
617-661-8831

Agassiz Baldwin Community † 20 Sacramento Street
617-349-6287 x10

Boys & Girls Club † 119 Windsor Street
617-491-2194

Cambridge Community Center † 5 Callender Street
617-547-6811

Cambridge Family YMCA Afterschool †
820 Massachusetts Avenue
617-661-9622 x721

Community Art Center Programs † 19 Windsor Street
617-868-7100 x14

East End House † 105 Spring Street
617-876-4444

Margaret Fuller Out of School Time † 71 Cherry Street
617-547-4680

Can I apply for an after-school program at the Cambridge Public Schools Family Resource Center while I am registering my child for Kindergarten?

No, the Family Resource Center only registers students for the Cambridge Public Schools. While after-school programs may be located in public schools, they are not run by Cambridge Public Schools.

Instead, after-school programs are run by many organizations, including the City's Department of Human Service Programs.

Should I put my child on a program's waitlist?

Yes, if the program has a waitlist. **Some programs may offer that possibility.** Families should ask what their chances are of enrolling their child into the program.

Once your Kindergarten or Grade 1 child has been assigned to a school, **it is important to choose an after-school program.**

Make sure to remove your child from the waitlists of the programs he/she will not attend to make room for other children.



The **Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP)** has produced this brochure. For more information about after-school programs, please visit our website, email us, or contact us by phone.

Department of Human Service Programs

City of Cambridge
51 Inman Street, 3rd floor
Cambridge, MA 02139

www.cambridgema.gov/dhsp
askdhsp@cambridgema.gov
617-349-6200

The term “**after-school**” and “**out-of-school-time (OST)**” refer to the same thing. Both describe programs that are offered during non-school hours.

This document is about programs that are offered when the school day has ended during the school year.

After-school programs are provided by a collection of private non-profit organizations and the City's Department of Human Service Programs.