

# 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?



### ▲ **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?

#### **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](mailto:nhorton@cambridgema.gov)

## *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](http://www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP)

#### ***The Cambridge Somerville Resource Guide***

A comprehensive list of programs located in Cambridge  
and Somerville  
[www.cambridgesomervilleresourceguide.org](http://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/](http://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](http://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](http://www.cambridgema.gov/dhsp)  
[askdhsp@cambridgema.gov](mailto: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.