

Early Childhood Service Types during COVID-19

Explanations & Resources



Families, we want to take a moment to offer our gratitude for all the hard work you have done to support your child during a hectic school year. We acknowledge the difficulty many families face in finding high-quality care and education for their children, especially in times of a global crisis that affects each community in unique and profound ways.

We created this guidance to ensure you have the resources you need to support your child's learning, whether you chose the remote, blended, or in-person early childhood service types for the 2020-2021 school year. Our goal is to provide your child with high-quality and nurturing teaching teams, no matter where they are learning. See below for descriptions of the main early childhood service models that programs are providing during the COVID-19 pandemic and resources to support your child's growth.

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What to Expect from Remote Learning

Remote learning for young children is centered around supporting families, caregivers, and children to connect and engage in joyful, fun, play-based activities that build on children's natural curiosity. If your child participates in other learning models, your family can switch to the remote learning model at any time. Families receiving instruction remotely attend remote learning sessions with their child's teacher 5 days a week. Some of this time may be spent through live instruction, pre-recorded lessons, or independent learning time with your child:



- Live digital instruction for children ages 2-5 may include: a video chat where your child's teaching team reads a story and children can ask questions, or where a teacher introduces the centers for the day and children engage in play-based learning and exploration.
- Independent learning for children ages 2-5 may include: pre-recorded lessons, activities, and hands-on experiences for you and your child to explore together at home. For children from birth-5, this may include at-home play or reading a story with the child.



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- Remember, young children learn best through play-based and hands-on experiences. It is not expected that your child will complete independent worksheets as a part of their remote learning.

While attending school remotely, your child may engage with live instruction for up to 30 minutes each day, or interact with pre-recorded lessons through an online learning platform.

- The DOE encourages programs to follow daily live instruction times that are aligned with children's development. The DOE recommends up to 15 minutes for 3-K, and 30 minutes for pre-K of daily live instruction. Programs may choose for children to receive this same amount of remote learning time through pre-recorded lessons rather than live sessions. Visit the [Teaching & Learning page](#) to learn more about suggested times for daily live instruction.

How to Support your Child with Remote Learning

- This [Remote Learning Guidance for Families](#) contains ideas for how to support your child with remote learning. For other languages, visit our [Early Childhood Learn at Home page \(bit.ly/ECEathome\)](#).
- For weekly read-aloud suggestions and activities, visit [this section](#) of our [Early Childhood Learn at Home page \(bit.ly/ECEathome\)](#).
- Families receiving remote learning may also be eligible for the Learning Bridges program to supplement remaining care needed. [Learning Bridges](#) provides free, in-person child care options for children from 3-K through 8th grade on days when they are scheduled for remote learning. As of January 2021, Learning Bridges programs with available seats may enroll children participating in 100% remote learning if families are in need of additional care. Visit schools.nyc.gov/learningbridges or call 311 to learn more and apply.

What to Expect from Blended Learning

Blended learning for young children is centered around building connections between in-classroom and at-home experiences. Families receive instruction through a combination of in-person and remote learning throughout the week.



On days when your child is not in-person, some programs may offer live instruction, while others may offer pre-recorded lessons.

- Live lessons may include a video chat where a teacher reads a story or where your child participates in a group activity.
- Pre-recorded lessons may involve hands-on experiences you and your child can explore on your own, such as an art project, building together, or storytelling.

How to Support Your Child with Blended Learning



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- This [Blended Learning Guidance for Families](#) contains ideas for how to support your child with blended learning. For other languages, visit our [Early Childhood Learn at Home page \(bit.ly/ECEathome\)](#).
- All families who chose blended learning are eligible to participate in the [Learning Bridges](#) program. Learning Bridges provides free, in-person child care options for families with children from 3-K through 8th grade who may need additional care on the days they are scheduled for remote learning. If your family needs 5 days of care, you can inquire about the availability of blended learning for your child with your program's enrollment staff members. Visit [MySchools](#) for program contact information. You can also visit schools.nyc.gov/learningbridges or call 311 to learn more and apply.

What to Expect from In-Person Learning

In-person learning for young children is centered around supporting families and children as they learn through play, experiences, and positive relationships. In a typical classroom day, your child may learn through whole group and small group activities, choice time where they explore a variety of materials, outdoor play time, rest, and meal time. You can inquire about the availability of full-time in-person instruction for your child with your program's enrollment staff members. Visit [MySchools](#) for program contact information. If your program does not offer in-person instruction, you can reach out to ESEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov to explore what other program options may be available.



All programs are expected to follow local, state, and federal health and safety guidelines to limit children's exposure to illness. This could require programs to close for in-person learning and switch to remote learning for a period of time.

How to Support Your Child with In-Person Learning

- Your child's program administrators and teaching teams are the best points of contact for your programmatic questions. Visit nyc.gov/prek for a list of suggested questions that you can ask program leaders and teaching teams about their program.
- For more information on what to expect during in-person learning, visit our [Early Childhood Learning website](#).
- If you want to learn more about enrolling your child in an early childhood program, visit our enrollment pages: [Pre-K for All](#), [3-K for All](#), and [EarlyLearn](#). The 3-K and Pre-K for All applications for the 2021-22 school year will open on February, 24, 2021.
- Through your [MySchools account](#), you can explore the [Pre-K Quality Snapshot](#) to learn more about different programs' elements of quality to help you meet your child's needs.



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Additional Learning Expectations

- Children will continue to receive support in their preferred languages in all content areas, no matter the service models. Children in dual language programs will continue to receive instruction in both the target language and English.
- Children with disabilities will continue to receive the services outlined on their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), including related services (such as speech and occupational therapy) and Special Education Itinerant Instruction (SEIT) services. These services can be provided virtually for children who opt for remote learning, or may be provided in-person at your child's early childhood program.
- If your child is required to quarantine or stay at home due to COVID-like symptoms, you can reach out to your child's program to understand how you and your child can continue to participate in remote learning. You can refer to the [Family Health and Safety Guidance](#) to learn more about the precautions your child's program may put in place.

Supplemental Learning Resources



Receive fun facts and easy tips to promote your child's development by signing up for Ready4K. This free text-based platform comes at no cost to your family. You can either **text NYC to 70138** or [sign up here](#) (nyc.ready4k.com) and begin building on your existing family routines today!



Check out the educational television program [Let's Learn!](#) This show features age-appropriate lessons for children in grades 3-K through second grade. Episodes air weekdays at 11:00 am on Channel 13 WNET and 9:00 am on Channel 21 WLIW, or you can [stream episodes online here](#) (letslearn.org).



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Your family can pick up food at DOE locations across the city daily. For more information on meals and locations, visit the [Community Meals](#) page.



Explore the Early Childhood Family Resources Toolkit on [Growing Up NYC](#).



For support with pandemic-related resources, you can refer to the [New Yorker COVID-19 Resource Guide](#).



[Fill out this form](#) to let us know what issues you have with DOE-issued iPads/devices, access to applications, or other technical problems.

If you are experiencing difficulties in accessing services for your child, please call 311.

