



# Kindercare Pre-K or Public Pre-K? What's right for your family?

It helps to have information that is easy to understand when you're choosing a pre-Kindergarten (pre-K) class for your child. Pre-K is for children who are almost ready for kindergarten.

We made a simple list to show what is different between KinderCare's Pre-K class and your state's public school pre-K class.

| Parts of the Program                                 | KinderCare Pre-K Program   | Public Pre-K Program   |
|--|--|--|
| Hours of Care  | Centers are open Monday through Friday with earlier drop-off and later pick-up times available at no additional cost. Full-time and part-time schedules available.                       | Programs usually have shorter hours. You may need to pay extra to drop off early or pick up late.                                |
| Schedule of Care and Curriculum                      | Centers are open all year and close for federal holidays. Our research-based curriculum is only available at KinderCare, with a focus on a social, emotional, and cognitive development. | Public pre-K programs often run only during the school year. They close for summer and take the same days off as public schools. |
| Program Extras                                       | KinderCare offers extra small group classes during the school day to help children learn more about letters and sounds, cooking, music, and STEM.  | Public pre-K programs may only teach what is in the state's learning plan.   |
| Quality Assessments                                  | Centers are approved by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Visit <a href="http://NAEYC.org">NAEYC.org</a> for more details.                           | Public pre-K classrooms may not offer third party assessments.   |
| Child Development Assessments                        | We give BRIGANCE® screenings twice a year. This is a short, accurate check for children ages 3–5 to observe and measure how they are growing and learning.                               | Learning observations and measurements may be given only if teachers notice a problem.   |
| Outdoor Play Time                                    | Children play outdoors at least twice a day when the weather is good. If not, we designate time for indoor movement activities.  | Children get less outdoor time because they must spend a certain amount of time learning indoors.                                |
| Classroom Ratios<br>(Number of Teachers to Children) | We have one teacher for every 12 children in our Pre-K classes.  | In some public pre-K classrooms, there can be up to 24 children for one teacher.   |
| Health and Safety                                    | Staff are trained in child development or early childhood education and in first aid and CPR for children.   | Staff CPR and first aid training depend on each school's rules.  |