



Georgia's Source for Finding Quality Child Care

## Child Care Subsidy & Financial Assistance

Each type of child care financial assistance has different qualifications, like income level, employment status, or residency, so make sure you get all the facts. Some options are:

### Subsidized Child Care

The Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program is operated by the Department of Family and Children Services and helps very low income families afford quality child care. The program is available in all 159 counties statewide, and is based on the availability of funding. Subsidized care is available for children with ages ranging from birth to 13. This can be extended to age 18 if the child has special needs.

Parents or guardians may qualify to receive subsidized care if they:

- have limited income; and
- need child care to work, attend school or attend training

### State-approved Activities

- Employment for at least 24 hours per week for each adult parent in the household
- Enrolled full time in a middle school, high school or GED program (minor parents under 18 years only)
- Enrolled full time in a job training program (12 month time limit)

Note: Grandparents receiving SSI or Social Security Disability Insurance or who are 60 years or older are exempt from activity requirement.

Families that qualify for the CAPS program can choose their own child care providers. Most eligible families pay a portion of the child care fee directly to the provider and CAPS pays a portion of the fee directly to the provider. The fee is based on the number of children needing child care and the amount of income that the family earns.

### Funds Availability

Child care funds are distributed by the federal government. There is a pre-set determination for the amount each state receives. This may lead to families being placed on a waiting list when funding becomes limited.

As families move and/or drop out of the program, or as funds become available, families on the waiting list are contacted. It is difficult to predict how long a family on the list may wait.

**To apply** contact the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) in the county where you live.

A staff member at the county DFCS office will know if funds are available to serve additional families and can describe the program requirements.

[www.allgakids.org](http://www.allgakids.org)



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### **Georgia Pre-K**

The Georgia Pre-K program was established in 1993 and is funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education. Children four years of age on September 1 of the current school year whose parents are Georgia residents are eligible. Because participation in the program is voluntary (**NO COST**) for both families and communities, there may not be enough space for every four year old to attend.

### **Head Start and Early Head Start**

Head Start (3 to 5-year olds) and Early Head Start (Birth to 3-years olds) are federally-funded and comprehensive child development programs that serve children from birth to five, pregnant women, and their families. They are child-focused programs and have the overall goal of increasing the school readiness of young children in low-income families. This program is at **NO COST** for most (but not always) families who have incomes that meet the federal poverty guidelines. Children receive free medical and dental care, have healthy meals and snacks, and enjoy playing.

### **Multi-Child Discount, Sliding Scale, or Scholarships**

Ask child care providers if they provide any discounts for multiple children, sliding scale, or scholarships.

### **Employer/College Support**

Does your employer (or college, if you are a student) provide child care scholarships, discounts to certain programs, or on-site child care at reduced rates?

### **Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**

You may be able to lower your taxes and even get up to several thousands dollars back if you qualify for the EITC. To qualify you must be working full-time or part-time and make less than a certain amount based upon family size. You don't have to owe any taxes to get the EITC.

### **Federal Child Tax Credit**

If you have a dependent child under the age 17, you may be eligible to get the Child Tax Credit, which can be worth hundreds of dollars per child. The income limit for the CTC is much higher than for the Earned Income Tax Credit, but you still don't have to owe taxes to get the Child Tax Credit.

### **Federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit**

If you have a child under 13, and owe federal income taxes, this tax credit can help cover a portion or all of the taxes you owe if you qualify.

### **Family, Friend and Neighbor Care**

Many children are now being cared for by family, friends, and neighbors in home settings. Family, friend, and neighbor care is also known as "kith and kin" care or "informal care," as opposed to the care provided in more formal and professional center-based and family child care markets. An informal provider may care for a limit of 2 children without registering with the state. **Quality Care for Children does not provide referrals for this type of care.**

**For further assistance in determining the best option for your family, call us at  
877-ALL-GA-KIDS (877-255-4254).**

[www.allgakids.org](http://www.allgakids.org)

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