

Get Your Kids Ready for Elementary School!

Beginning in the 2026-27 School Year

What is school readiness? In simple terms, school readiness means a child is ready to go to school. Get Kids Ready is a state-funded school readiness program that helps 4-year-olds prepare for the transition from child care or home to a school setting.

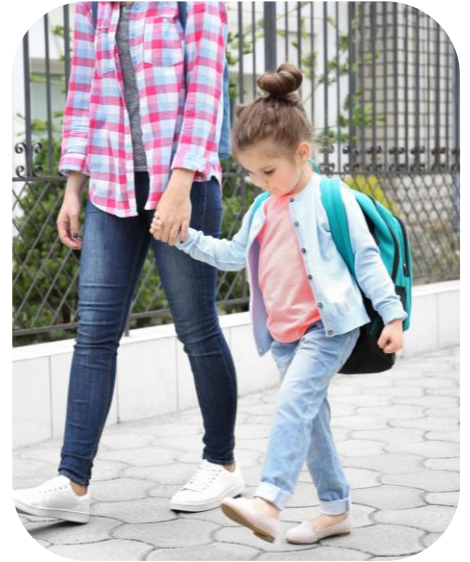
Through Get Kids Ready, qualified child care providers focus on developing the academic, physical, social-emotional, self-help skills, and much more that kids will need to succeed in school.

The state pays child care providers for the time kids spend in Get Kids Ready, making that part of the day free for families.

Eligibility and Enrollment Requirements for Children

Your child is eligible to participate if:

- They are 4-years-old on or before September 1 of the school year they plan to participate
- The child's parent or guardian submits an application to participate in the program, on a form prepared by DCF, to a participating provider
- A participating child care provider has accepted the child's application to attend Get Kids Ready



Learn more at
dcf.wisconsin.gov/getkidsready



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Child Care Provider Requirements

In order to participate in Get Kids Ready, certified and licensed child care providers are eligible if they:

- Are in compliance with all legal, financial, and regulatory requirements imposed by law or by department rule
- Will provide at least 437 hours of instruction in elementary school readiness per school year
- Use a curriculum that meets the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards
- Do not have a contract with a school district to provide 4K for the school year in which the provider intends to participate in Get Kids Ready
- Have lead teachers delivering Get Kids Ready instruction with an associate degree or bachelor's degree in any field of study



How to Find a Participating Child Care Provider

If your child already attends a child care program, ask your provider if they intend to participate in Get Kids Ready.

All child care providers intending to participate in Get Kids Ready will be posted to the DCF website by February 15.

All child care providers approved to participate in Get Kids Ready will be updated on the website on June 2, 2026.

Child care programs may choose to start enrolling children at any time.

Learn more on the DCF website: dcf.wisconsin.gov/getkidsready.