

Learn About Get Kids Ready

Get Kids Ready Overview

Making sure children have the skills to thrive in school and in life is important. Starting in 2026, Get Kids Ready is a new community-based school readiness initiative to support licensed and certified child care providers serving four-year-olds. Child care providers who meet the eligibility criteria and decide to participate will receive payments for each 4-year-old participating in their school readiness program.

Eligibility Requirements for Child Care Providers

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

Note: The Intent to Participate has closed for the 2026-27 school year. Providers who did not submit their Intent to Participate will not be able to offer Get Kids Ready instruction for this school year. There will be an Intent to Participate for each school year and providers who wish to offer Get Kids Ready for future school years may submit their Intent to Participate at that time.



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Eligibility Requirements for Children

A 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



Wisconsin Shares and Get Kids Ready – Did You Know?



- Get Kids Ready hours may be included in the child's Wisconsin Shares authorization.
- Child care providers cannot charge families for the time children spend in Get Kids Ready, regardless of whether they are participants in Wisconsin Shares
- As of October 2025, if families receive Wisconsin Shares and pay their child care provider more than the amount they owe, then providers may keep the full amount paid to them

Learn more at
dcf.wisconsin.gov/getkidsready

