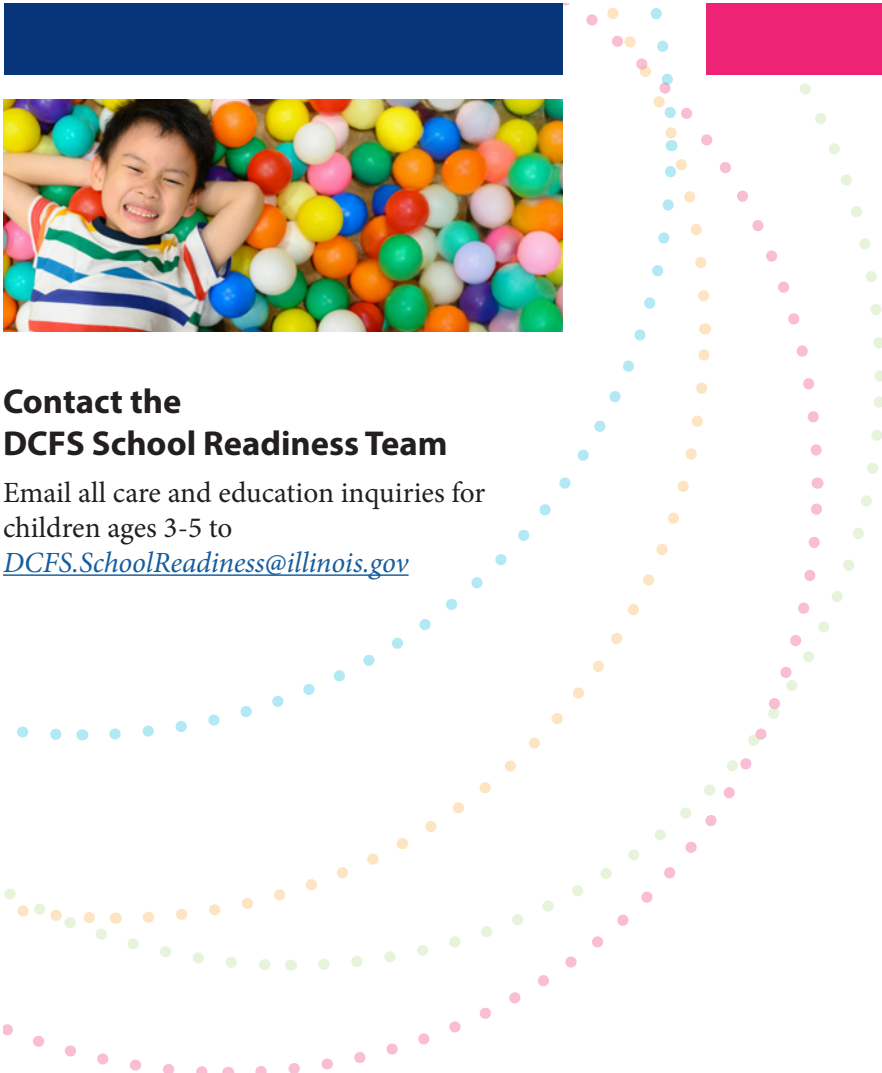




**Contact the
DCFS School Readiness Team**

Email all care and education inquiries for
children ages 3-5 to
DCFS.SchoolReadiness@illinois.gov

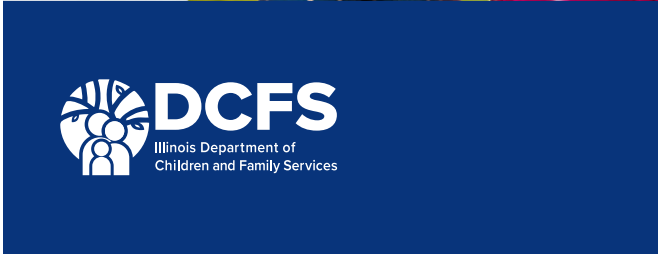


DCFS.Illinois.gov

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Ready, Set, Pre-K!





Ready to learn, ready to grow, and ready for school

A strong start leads to a stronger future, and school readiness lays the foundation for life success. The first five years are a crucial time for learning and by the time a child reaches age 5 they have developed 90% of their brain. Early childhood education allows children to grow academically and build social emotional skills, so they are prepared and eager for kindergarten.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” –NELSON MANDELA

Enrolling in an early childhood program

Who is eligible?

Children from low-income families or those at risk of academic failure are eligible for Head Start and state-funded preschools (Preschool for All and Preschool Expansion Grantee programs).



DCFS School Readiness Program

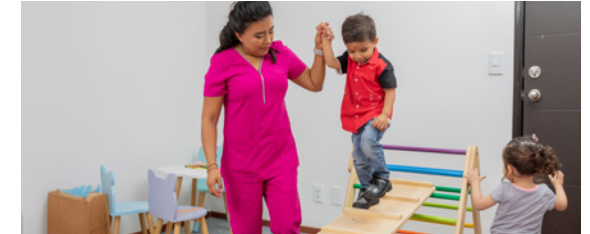
The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Office of Education and Transition Services School Readiness program's focus is to ensure youth in care, ages 3-5, are enrolled in quality early childhood education programs.

The School Readiness program helps by:

- Identifying available early childhood care and education programs and answering questions.
- Addressing eligibility questions and what documents are needed for enrollment.
- Addressing challenges to enrollment and suspension and expulsion.
- Assisting in the transition of a child into an early childhood program or school.

Early childhood education programs introduce children to skills that prepare them for success in academics and in life, including:

- School readiness.
- Language development.
- Motor skills development.
- Problem solving and reasoning.
- Learning social skills.
- Emotional regulation.



How to find a quality preschool

In Chicago

- School and community-based programs in Chicago
www.chicagoearlylearning.org
312-229-1690
- Illinois Action for Children
www.actforchildren.org
312- 823-1100

Anywhere in Illinois

Find a licensed and quality-rated early learning program, including Head Start, state funded preschool, center-based childcare and home-based childcare centers.

- www.Illinoiscaresforkids.org
- sunshine.dcfs.illinois.gov
- Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA):
www.inccrra.org
- Head Start center locator:
headstart.gov/center-locator