



Care for School Age Children During School Hours

As children are preparing to go back to school and with many school districts offering options for remote learning, more families are searching for care for school-age children during school hours. As a result, child care programs may be considering how best to help.

Basically, as long as child care programs operate within licensing regulations, they can do whatever they are able to meet this need. But before launching into providing this service, there are a lot of things to consider.

You are the helpers and the early childhood professionals. You do what you do because you want to meet the needs of your families and children. But keep in mind that the education of school-age children is ultimately the responsibility of the parents and school districts.

Having a policy explaining 1) the services that your program will offer and 2) if you will/will not support children with online learning, will set expectations with families. Be sure to explain in your policy that your program may not be able to provide learning support all of the time because of staffing and other program needs.

We know there are a lot of questions about funding and ODJFS has not yet provided information about reimbursement for these additional hours in child care during school hours. Currently, school age children using state assistance (publicly funded child care) are only funded for before- and after-school care.

We all continue to journey through these ever-changing times. 4C for Children remains committed to supporting you and your crucial work as we continue this journey together. We will communicate funding information to you as soon as it is available.

Thank you for all that you do to support our communities families and children!

For more information, please contact your 4C for Children coach, call 513-758-1334 (Southwest Ohio) or 937-220-9660, ext. 1334 (Miami Valley) or email coaching@4cforchildren.org.

Things to Consider

As you think about providing care for school-age children, here are some things to consider:

- Do you have staff able to help with remote learning? In addition, you will likely need more than one staff person to cover the extended hours of school age-care.
- Do you have internet access and/or data sufficient to support online learning?
- Will you provide computers and all needed technology or will children need to supply their own?
- Does your staff have the knowledge to support multiple types of technology?
- Does your staff have the knowledge to support learners on multiple learning platforms?
- How will you handle security of the technology to ensure items are protected?
- Do you have staff with the abilities to support children of different ages and grades from different schools and school districts who use different curricula?
- Can staff support those children who may need additional learning supports such as IEPs and remote counseling services?