



Early Learning Enrollment in Santa Clara County

90% of a child’s brain develops by age 5, which is why regularly attending early learning programs builds strong foundations for success in life and future careers. The **Santa Clara County Office of Education** has resources to help families and caregivers find and enroll their children in programs that fit their needs.

Birth-2 Years

Infant & Toddler Programs

- Options:**
- Licensed childcare in centers and family homes
 - License-exempt programs
 - Free and low-cost programs

3-5 Years

Preschool & TK Programs

- Options:**
- Licensed childcare in family homes
 - Licensed center-based preschool programs
 - License-exempt programs
 - Free and low-cost programs
 - School-operated programs

5+ Years

Kindergarten Programs

- Options:**
- School-operated programs
 - Before and after-school licensed and license-exempt programs

Success Starts Early

A child who is enrolled and regularly attends early learning programs is...



Able to develop important cognitive, social, and emotional skills for future learning



More likely to be a proficient reader by the end of 3rd grade



More likely to go to college



More likely to have increased lifetime earnings

Types of Programs

Licensed Programs

Licensed programs are operated in centers or family homes and must meet licensing requirements set by the California Department of Social Services. These include free and low-cost programs such as Head Start and the California State Preschool Program.

License-Exempt Programs

License-exempt programs can operate legally without a license. They may provide services through homes, centers, city programs, parent co-ops, before and after school programs run by schools, and more. License-exempt providers are required to clear a criminal background check.

School Programs

School-operated programs are run within a school. Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Kindergarten programs are free and open to all regardless of immigration status. Schools may offer free, low-cost, and/or fee-based programs for preschool.

Find a Program

School Enrollment

For information about school enrollment in preschool, TK, and K, please contact your local school or district. The **Santa Clara County Office of Education's** Steps to Success website provides important enrollment resources.

Enrollment resources:
www.enrollsantaclara.org

Childcare and Preschool Programs

The **Santa Clara County Childcare Resource & Referral (R&R) Program** provides every family with information to find high quality childcare and preschool programs that meets their specific needs.

Contact Us:
childcarescc@sccoe.org
669-212-KIDS (5437)
www.childcarescc.org

Visit our website to download the Quality Childcare Checklist!

Head Start and California State Preschool Program

The **Santa Clara County Office of Education** operates Head Start, Early Head Start, California State Preschool, and CCTR Classroom Programs. Programs provide full day and part-day preschool services, free of charge or low cost, to eligible families.

Contact Us:
408-453-6900
<https://sccoe.to/ELS>

Programs & Supports for Children with Disabilities

The **Inclusion Collaborative** offers free supports, resources, and referrals for both educators and families who have children with special needs. Contact the Inclusion WarmLine for a list of inclusive childcare and preschool programs.

Contact Us:
408-453-6651
inclusionwarmline@sccoe.org
www.inclusioncollaborative.org

STEPS TO SUCCESS
Enroll. Attend. Learn.

The Santa Clara County Office of Education provides programs and services for migrant families. For more information, contact 408-453-6770.