



Selecting an Afterschool Program

Parent Checklist

When it is time to select an afterschool program, there are many factors that you may want to consider. Use this checklist as a *starting point* for ensuring you select a quality program. Take the time to learn about each afterschool program you are considering. The best way to learn more about a program is by visiting and asking questions. Many options exist, including school-based programs, parks & recreation centers, and churches. Most importantly, make sure your choice is the right decision for you and your child!

Programming and Activities

- Is there a daily schedule that provides academic support, enrichment, a variety of activities, youth choice, and homework help?
- Are the activities provided age appropriate?
- When visiting the facility, does it look fun? Do the students appear happy and engaged?
- Does the program staff appear caring, respectful, and engaged?
- Is there space for outdoor activities?
- Is the program welcoming to parents and families?

Health & Safety

- Is the program licensed through the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning? (Note: not all programs in Georgia are required to be licensed, many are exempt)
- What are the policies regarding sign-in and sign-out, medication, discipline, safety, field trips, and transportation?
- Is the facility safe, clean and well-maintained?
- What meals and snacks are offered? Do they follow nutritional guidelines?
- Does the program offer ample opportunities for physical activity?



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Program Staff

- What are the qualifications required to be a teacher?
- Does the facility run background checks on employees and volunteers? What additional screening methods does the program use?
- What are the staff to student ratios?

Program Information

- What are the hours of operation?
- What are the drop-off/pick-up hours and procedures?
- What are enrollment fees? Are there additional fees such as, late pick-ups or late payments?
- Can the program share outcome data with you? Can they provide you with program references?