

Child Care and Preschool - What's the Difference?

Navigating the world of early childhood education can be overwhelming, especially when it comes to understanding the differences between child care and preschool. All provide child care for young children, but they're not the same. Here's a breakdown to help you choose the right program for you at the different stages of your child's life.

Child Care

Child care, also called daycare, is all about creating a safe space for children to play, eat, and nap. This can be with your child's grandparent in your home, at a neighbor's house, or even licensed care in someone else's home or a facility. Before and after school programs at your child's elementary school are also child care. While some educational activities may be included, the main focus is caring for the child's overall well-being.

It supports working parents by offering care during working hours and may have extended hours, including before and after regular school or preschool hours.

Child care serves a wide age range, from infants to school-age children. Many providers serve children under two, including infants as young as six weeks old. This makes it a good option for young children who don't yet qualify for preschool but still require child care.

Preschool

Preschool is focused on education and getting kids ready for school. Teachers trained in early childhood education lead structured



activities that help children learn early literacy, numeracy, and social skills. The environment is designed to make learning fun through play and guided activities.

Preschools generally have a philosophy around their curriculum that guides how the teachers teach new skills and help the children learn. Some preschools, like Head Start, are guided by state standards, which spell out what children will learn before they leave preschool.

Preschool typically follows traditional school hours (about 8am to 3pm) and break schedules (closed, weekends, holidays, and summers). Many preschools offer both half-day and full-day options.

Preschool programs serve kids between the ages of three and five years old. They generally won't accept children under two or those over five who are ready for kindergarten.

Key Differences

	Child Care	Preschool
Main Purpose	Caring for the child's overall well-being.	Education and getting kids ready for school
Ages served	From infants to school-age	Children 3 to 5 years old
Education	May include educational activities	Follows a learning philosophy, structured curriculum, or state learning standards
Schedule	Available during working hours and may have extended hours, including before and after regular school or preschool hours.	Follows traditional school hours (about 8am to 3pm) and break schedules (closed, weekends, holidays, and summers).

Understanding these differences will help you choose the best fit for your child. Consider your child's developmental needs, your work schedule, and educational goals when making this important decision.

Play, Learn & Grow with FREE Preschool!



Prepare your little ones for kindergarten and a life of learning with a quality, no-cost preschool experience that's personalized to your child's needs and learning style.

Thinking about the 2024-25 school year? **Applications are expected to open in April** for publicly funded preschools throughout Linn, Benton, & Lincoln Counties!

Check out pollywogfamily.org/free-preschool for more information and a list of required documents.

Follow us online @PollywogFamily for more announcements!



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NOW OPEN FOR ENROLLMENT

LBCC is thrilled to announce the reopening of the Periwinkle Child Development Center for the 2023-24 school year, catering to the child care needs of students and staff. This center, set to open in Winter Term 2024, will not only serve young children aged 2-5 but will also function as a lab school, providing valuable opportunities for students in Early Childhood Education to engage in observations, teaching experiences, and practicum hours. Interested applicants can apply by scanning the QR code.



Questions?

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For accommodations requests, contact Accessibility Resources at 541-917-4789 or accessibility@linnbenton.edu at least three business days in advance. LBCC does not discriminate based on any protected status in its programs or activities. For more information, visit linnbenton.edu/nondiscrimination.

The Periwinkle Child Development Center is a new preschool facility on the Albany campus of Linn-Benton Community College. It is set to open on February 12 and will serve children ages 3-5 years old. It will add a classroom for 2-year-olds in September. Periwinkle has worked very closely with the Early Childhood Education (ECE) department at Linn-Benton Community College to make an environment for children that is engaging, creative, and loving.



Periwinkle Child Development Center is a high-quality preschool for children and a working lab school for LBCC's ECE students. Periwinkle will offer opportunities for these students to

observe the classroom and gain teaching experience as part of their degree program.

Periwinkle has been designed to support new teachers in learning the skills necessary for a future in the education of young children. The center offers three observation rooms with one-way windows and amazing technology for listening to the conversations happening in the classroom. The observation rooms will allow parents to check in on their little ones without being seen or interrupting the school day. It also offers an adult classroom space for the ECE program and evening parenting classes.

Applications for 75 slots are open for LBCC students and staff. Children with all developmental ranges and levels of potty training are accepted. Rates for LBCC students are \$250 per month for ages 3 to 5. Unfilled slots will be offered to the community at a competitive rate.

The Periwinkle Child Development Center Grand Opening will be on February 13 from 4 to 5:30pm. The community is welcome to attend!



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