



After School Care Frequently Asked Questions

What is the mission of PSC?

Our mission is to provide quality and affordable before and after school childcare services for the children of working parents. Preferred School Care (PSC) programs are designed to provide a safe, nurturing, and supportive academic/social environment for students.

What are the operational days, times, and location of the after school program?

The after-school program runs from Monday to Friday, starting at 2:15 PM and concluding at 6:00 PM. It aligns with the APS calendar regarding holidays, teacher workdays, inclement weather, and any other relevant closures. We kindly request that students are picked up no later than 6:00 PM. A late fee of \$1.00 per minute will be applied for pickups after this designated time. This policy will be uniformly enforced for all families, and consistent late pickups may result in dismissal from the program.

What are the prices of after care?

A non-refundable registration fee of \$30 is required for each student and participant. The weekly program fee is \$65, and discounts are available for families enrolling multiple children. We also offer sliding fee scales for qualifying parents, and we gladly accept CAPS. Please be aware that enrichment club fees are separate from the weekly tuition for the PSC program.

What is PSC's enrollment policy?

PSC offers services to elementary school children aged 4 to 12, regardless of race, creed, gender, religion, national origin, or disability. To ensure accurate enrollment in our program, students must complete the enrollment packet. Parents or guardians are responsible for filling out the enrollment application and providing all required documentation. Furthermore, a registration fee is due at the time of enrollment.

What does PSC offer?

The PSC program enhances the school's core curriculum by providing students with homework assistance and a diverse range of activities that promote personal choice. We strive to create a safe and structured environment that fosters independence and addresses the varied needs of our students. The program's objective is to stimulate creativity and imagination through engaging learning opportunities that encompass both core subjects and enrichment activities. Available activities may include, but are not limited to, homework support, reading enrichment, math and science games, vocabulary development, exposure to technology, arts and crafts, as well as both indoor and outdoor sports and games. The selection of after-school activities may vary based on student interests, parental support, and available resources.

What will the daily schedule involve?

The student-to-staff ratio at PSC is 1 to 15, allowing for supervised support as students complete their homework assignments while also facilitating social interaction with both peers and adults. Students have access to a range of challenging and engaging games and activities, complemented by USDA-certified nutritional snacks and various enrichment opportunities.

What is the homework policy?

A specific period will be allocated for children to focus on their homework; however, participation in homework completion is not a requirement of our program. Our staff members are available to provide assistance and answer any questions as needed or upon request. For children who do not have homework, alternative activities will be offered at the center. We encourage parents and guardians to engage in discussions with their children about the significance of homework. To ensure the effectiveness of our program, Bright From The Start requests that children spend no more than 45 minutes on homework.

How is staff selected for the program?

PSC employs certified faculty and staff during the regular school day, alongside external personnel from APS. We adhere to school policy by conducting mandatory background checks prior to extending any employment offers. These background checks include fingerprint checks conducted by police departments and local municipalities. The comprehensive background investigation covers employment verification, professional reference checks, education confirmation, fingerprint records, and criminal background checks. Additionally, all employees are required to complete a total of ten (10) hours of training annually, which includes certification in CPR and First Aid.

How will the safety and security of students enrolled in PSC be enforced?

Emergency procedures are specifically developed to align with the building layout. All staff members receive comprehensive training on protocols related to physical plant incidents, serious injuries or fatalities, and child safety procedures in the event of a missing child. The APS administration has established severe weather and fire safety evacuation procedures, which will be implemented as needed to ensure the safety of all occupants. Copies of the evacuation and shelter protocols are prominently displayed in all areas utilized by PSC. During drills, a designated staff member will assist children with mobility challenges, ensuring their safe transport to the designated safety area. If the building is deemed unsafe or uncomfortable, parents will be promptly informed to pick up their children. PSC will adhere to the evacuation procedures set forth by APS. The Site Director regularly reviews these protocols with the staff and conducts periodic unscheduled drills and practice sessions.

Are the after-school programs licensed?

School-age programs play a vital role in enhancing students' educational experiences and fostering their academic and personal development. The "Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning" recognizes that high-quality after-school care is essential for an effective educational system. To ensure compliance with health and safety standards, Georgia has established specific state licensing requirements for after-school programs, which serve as a benchmark for their operation.

Preferred School Care exceeds these minimum state licensing requirements by achieving a 2-star rating through Quality Rated. This achievement demonstrates our program's dedication to surpassing state health and safety standards, meeting various quality benchmarks, and excelling in independent assessments. Quality Rated is a tiered system that evaluates, enhances, and communicates the quality of early and school-age care and educational programs. Similar to rating systems found in other service sectors, such as hospitality, Quality Rated assigns ratings to programs that meet a predetermined set of quality standards.

Will PSC provide transportation?

Unfortunately, PSC does not offer transportation services from the after-school program.

**For more information, please call Preferred School Care's main office at (770)739-1462
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