



Kindergarten Age Has Changed!
Starting August 2014,
Your child must be 5 on or before July 31 to enter kindergarten.

The beginning years of a child's life are critical – research shows that the brain develops most rapidly in the first years of life.

Don't let your child miss a year of early learning!

Children who participate in high-quality early learning programs are better prepared for kindergarten and more likely to succeed in school and beyond. These experiences can be found in:

- **Group child care centers.** Licensed care provided in a center by an organization.
- **Family child care.** Licensed care provided in a caregiver's home.
- **Family-child interaction learning.** Programs that families attend with their children; focus is on family-child learning time.
- **Home visiting.** Support services delivered in the family's home by an organization.

There are resources and referral services available throughout the state!
Here are some of them:

****Resource and referral services for child care and other services:**

- **PATCH** – <http://patchhawaii.org/families>
 - o Oahu (808) 839-1988
 - o East Hawaii (808) 961-3169
 - o West Hawaii (808) 322-3500
 - o Maui (808) 242-9232
 - o Kauai (808) 632-0212
 - o Molokai and Lanai (800) 498-4145

****Resources for interested income-eligible families:**

- **Department of Human Services** – <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/bessd/child-care-program/ccch-subsidies/>
 - o **Child Care Connection Hawaii**
Provided by contractor, Arbor E&T, LLC., dba ResCare Workforce Services
 - Honolulu (808) 566-2600
 - Leeward Oahu (808) 356-5575
 - Hilo (808) 961-6807
 - Kona (808) 334-6101
 - Maui, Molokai, Lanai (808) 249-2461
 - Kauai (808) 245-2193
 - o **Preschool Open Doors**
Provided by contractor, PATCH
 - Oahu (808) 791-2130
 - Neighbor Islands (800) 746-5620



- **Kamehameha Schools - Pauahi Keiki Scholars** – http://apps.ksbe.edu/finaid/preschool/pauahi_keiki_scholars
- **Keiki O Ka Aina Hawaii Early Learning Partnerships for Childcare (HELP Childcare)** – <http://www.keikiokaaina.org/>
Native Hawaiian Child Care Assistance Program (808)845-3454
- **Early Head Start (EHS) and Head Start (HS) Programs**
 - o **Parents & Children Together**
 - (Hawaii Island) (HS) (808) 961-0570
 - (Oahu) (EHS/HS) (808) 842-5996
 - o **Family Support Hawaii (Kona) (EHS)** (808) 334-4107
 - o **Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (HS)** (808) 249-2988
 - o **Maui Family Support Services (EHS)** (808) 242-0900
 - o **Honolulu Community Action Program (HS)** (808) 847-2400
 - o **Child and Family Service (Kauai) (HS)** (808) 245-5914

****Resources for other financial assistance:**

- **Department of Human Services** – <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/>
 - o **SNAP – Federal Nutrition Assistance Program and State Financial Assistance Programs**
 - *BESSD* (808) 643-1643
 - o **State Medical Assistance Program**
 - *MedQuest* (808) 586-5390
- **Department of Health**
 - o **WIC – State Women, Infants & Children Food Program**
 - Oahu (808) 586-8175
 - Neighbor Islands Toll-Free 1-888-820-6425

****For more information, visit earlylearning.hawaii.gov or call (808)586-0796.****

Commonly Asked Questions:

1. **When does the age change take effect?**
 - o Starting August 2014, for DOE school year 2014–2015, a child must be 5 years old on or before July 31 to be eligible to attend DOE kindergarten. DOE will not accept a child who is not 5 on or before July 31.
2. **What are some options for children who do not make the cut-off date for kindergarten?**
 - o Families may consider various settings, such as group child care centers, family-child interaction learning programs, and/or registered family child care for their children.
3. **Will state funding be available to help families pay for their children who are no longer eligible for kindergarten?**
 - o A limited number of subsidies, based on several criteria including family income and family size, will be awarded through the Preschool Open Doors program within the Hawaii Department of Human Services (DHS). Through Preschool Open Doors, eligible families select the preschool of their choice, which may include **any** group child care center or group child care home licensed by DHS.
 - o The Child Care Connection Hawaii program, also within DHS, provides assistance to families who are employed, in school, or in a job training program and require child care to maintain their employment, schooling, or job training, and meet income eligibility requirements for their family size.
 - o In both programs, subsidies go directly to the families. Both programs use a sliding fee scale for eligible families: the subsidy amount varies based on the family’s gross monthly income, family size, and type and cost of care. For more information about these two programs, go to <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/bessd/child-care-program/ccch-subsidies/>.

*This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of resources and referral services.
Parents are encouraged to look into other options that may be available.*