



Gemeente  
Amsterdam



# Pre-school

a good start for every child!

## What is pre-school?

Pre-school prepares children for primary school so that they get a good start. Pre-school is a playschool or day care centre where children between 2.5 and 4 years old learn through play. A great deal of focus and time is devoted to language games, reading, drawing, listening, singing and movement.

## Who is pre-school for?

Pre-school is for all infants in Amsterdam aged 2.5 to 4 years old.

For more information visit [amsterdam.nl/voorschool](https://amsterdam.nl/voorschool).



## Pre-school is a playschool or day care centre

Children go to a playschool with a pre-school or a day care centre with a pre-school for a minimum of 2 half-days and a maximum of 4. A half-day lasts 3 hours.

Are you looking for a pre-school in your area? Go to [amsterdam.nl/schoolwijzer](https://amsterdam.nl/schoolwijzer) where you can also find contact details.

## Pre-school indication

The Parent and Child Centre (OKC) monitors your child's development. If your child is at risk of a deficiency in language or other skills, the OKC will advise you to enrol your child at a pre-school. This advice is called a 'pre-school indication' and sometimes a 'yes indication' or a 'VVE indication'. Children with a pre-school indication may attend pre-school for 12 hours per week.

Infants in Amsterdam who do not have a pre-school indication can also attend a pre-school. Please see the options below.

## How much does pre-school cost?

Pre-school at a playschool or day care centre is free for infants with a pre-school indication. There are no costs for parents, the municipality pays for it.

Infants in Amsterdam without a pre-school indication can attend a **playschool** with a pre-school for 2 half-days (6 hours) free of charge. At several pre-schools, a child without a pre-school indication can attend for 2 extra half-days by paying an income-based parental contribution.





At a **day care centre** with a pre-school, you pay the current hourly rate if your child does not have a pre-school indication. If both parents are working, studying, in a job-seeking programme, or taking a compulsory citizenship course, they are entitled to childcare benefit and only pay a parental contribution.

Parents who are not entitled to childcare benefit may qualify for 2 half-days (6 hours) of free pre-school at a **day care centre**. This does not apply to all day care centres with a pre-school. For more information visit [www.amsterdam.nl/voorschool](http://www.amsterdam.nl/voorschool).

You can find more information about childcare benefit at [belastingdienst.nl/toeslagen](http://belastingdienst.nl/toeslagen)

## How do I enrol my child at a pre-school?

You can enrol your child from 1 year old.

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