

Your Work/Life Benefits

The Northwestern University Work/Life, Child & Family Resources Office provides faculty and staff with helpful information about child care options and provider referral services in the Evanston and Chicago area. This is an especially useful service for those who may be new to the area or those who are just starting a family and need guidance locating quality care.



childcare

Choices in Childcare

Suburban-residential Evanston offers a variety of options for families including more than 20 full-day center-based early childhood providers, 15 part-day preschool programs and more than 50 licensed family home providers. The diverse Evanston area is also home to a variety of private school options from the Montessori and Waldorf methodologies to a number of religious-affiliated educational facilities. A number of choices are available to families in Chicago neighborhoods as well. The University's referral service can help parents connect with the program that is right for their family. To address the childcare needs of University families, Northwestern has made arrangements with some local programs.

The McGaw YMCA Children's Center

The McGaw YMCA Children's Center, the largest childcare provider in Evanston, offers University faculty, staff and students priority enrollment in the center on an as-available basis.

Northwestern provides funding for scholarships, music and movement enrichment classes, and additional fine arts enhancements through Northwestern student and faculty volunteers. Children enrolled in the program also utilize the resources at the main McGaw YMCA building, where they participate weekly in gym and swim classes with certified instructors. The YMCA youth membership fee is waived for NU children attending the center.

The center provides year-round care for children infants through grade 5, including full-day early childhood learning programs, part-day preschool, after-school and holiday care, and summer camps. It adheres to early childhood education best practices and is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

The McGaw YMCA Children's Center is located near the Evanston campus at 1420 Maple Avenue in Evanston. Call (847) 475-8580 to schedule a tour at your convenience.

Harkness House for Children

Harkness House provides priority enrollment for NU-affiliated families. The NAEYC-accredited center serves infants through kindergarten children at its Winnetka facility located about 12 minutes north of Evanston near Sheridan Road and the Metra station. Call (847) 501-2549 for more information.

Roycemore School

Nearby Roycemore School offers discounted tuition to NU faculty and staff children. Roycemore School is an independent, fully accredited, coeducational, college preparatory day school providing a liberal arts education to students from Junior Kindergarten (3 year olds) through grade 12. Extended day care is also available.

Roycemore is located adjacent to the Evanston campus on the west side of Sheridan Road at 640 Lincoln Avenue. For more information about Roycemore School, visit <http://www.roycemoreschool.org>. or call (847) 866-6055.

Baker Demonstration School

An independent preschool through grade 8 school located at 201 Sheridan Road in Wilmette just north of the Evanston campus. Baker Demonstration School provides discounted tuition to NU affiliates. Contact Deirdre Harrison at (847) 425-5813 for more information.

Visit our Web Site

www.northwestern.edu/hr/benefits/childcare
for more information.

The logo for childcare, featuring the word "childcare" in a lowercase, sans-serif font, centered within a circular graphic composed of several overlapping, light-colored lines.

KinderCare at Northwestern University

Northwestern families receive priority enrollment and NU-affiliated tuition rates at the **KinderCare at Northwestern University** center located near the Chicago campus. The national childcare provider's KinderCare @ Work employer sponsored division specializes in creating customized childcare benefits for its clients to help to foster a balanced work/life culture.

The center serves children ages six weeks to five years, focusing predominantly on the infant through two-year-old age groups to meet the needs of NU families living or working in Chicago.

Families benefit from KinderCare's quality curriculum and the convenience and security of nearby care in an urban setting. The 112-capacity-center is located in the Onterie Center at 446 E. Ontario Street, just two blocks south of Abbott Hall on the Chicago campus. For enrollment information, please contact the center director at (312) 867-7056.

Center-Based Backup Childcare

Center-based backup care is provided for children up to grade 5 on an as-available basis at the **McGaw YMCA Children's Center** in Evanston and at **11 designated KinderCare locations** in the surrounding Chicago and Evanston areas. Care is provided on an as-available basis. Pre-registration is required.

Families participating in the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account may be eligible to receive matching funds from the University to cover backup care costs at designated locations.

Visit <http://www.northwestern.edu/hr/benefits/childcare/solutions/backup.html> for more information.

Sittercity.com

Eligible faculty, staff and students receive free access to a database of thousands of babysitters, nannies and pet sitters at sittercity.com. Use the service to help you locate and hire a provider for back-up care when your regular provider is unavailable, evening commitments, and part-time or flexible childcare arrangements. Pet sitters are also listed on the site. Register for your free account at <https://nuhr.northwestern.edu>.

Resource and Referral Service

Faculty and staff are encouraged to call the University's free **childcare resource and referral service**. Action for Children offers free literature and consultation services, including profiles about childcare centers, licensed family childcare homes and nanny agencies in Evanston, Chicago and the surrounding area. Please contact our NU representative at (312) 823-1275.

Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account (FSA) and University Match

You can save money using pre-tax dollars to pay for childcare when you set aside up to \$5,000 annually (up to \$416 per month) from your paycheck to be diverted into an FSA account. FSA funds are not subject to income taxes. They are held in an account until you claim them to pay yourself back for childcare expenses.

The University's **Dependent Care Matching** program further helps defray your childcare costs. Depending on your family income level, you may be eligible to receive up to \$3,000 from the University for childcare expenses reimbursed to you through your FSA account. Enroll during Benefits Open Enrollment or within 31 days of an eligible change in family status. Contact the Benefits Division at (847) 491-7513 for details.

The logo for work/life @Northwestern University, featuring the words "work/life" in a lowercase, sans-serif font, with "@Northwestern University" in a smaller font below it, all centered within a circular graphic composed of several overlapping, light-colored lines.