



## Caring for School-Age Children as Schools Reopen

### Steps for Success: Partnering with Schools and Families

#### Make a Plan

1. Determine whether you can support school-age children, including providing space and internet for distance learning. If you have both, decide how many school-age children you can serve.
2. Check with your licensor to make sure you have completed all the needed steps to serve school-age children.
3. Reach out to other child care providers in your community to share information, learning, tips and vacancy information. For example, if you have space for an infant, a neighboring provider can direct a parent looking for infant care to you if they do not have an infant slot.
4. Update your provider profile with CCA of WA's Family Center/child care referral program by emailing [ImpactAdmin@wa.childcareaware.org](mailto:ImpactAdmin@wa.childcareaware.org) to request a link to your provider profile to update it, and on Washington's [Child Care Check](#), provided by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, to indicate you are serving school-aged children.

#### Partner with Schools

1. Ask principals to host a meeting with local child care programs to establish an educational partnership and address student needs.
2. Your local schools may contact you to coordinate. Be receptive and ready to share your capacity and plan for caring for school-age children.
3. Ask for school schedules to assist with program scheduling, and encourage universal lunch and/or recess breaks. Ask local school administrators to add you to their communications plans so you are informed about student schedules and changes.
4. **Find out** if your local school district is offering online technology support training to families and child care providers serving school-age children, and attend the training if it is offered.
5. Connect with your local school district's curriculum director for information, resources and supports for remote learning. Encourage a balance of both group online learning and individual offline learning so multiple children are not all online at the same time.
6. Check school district websites and social media frequently to make sure you are always aware of school scheduling changes.

#### Partner with Families

1. Ask parents to connect you with their child's teacher(s) so you, the teacher and the parents/guardians can best support student learning. Have parents/guardians sign a release form allowing this communication.
2. Create a supply list for parents/guardians of school-age children, including laptops/Chromebooks from schools, face masks, sound-canceling headphones, notebooks, etc.
3. Develop a communication plan for schoolwork updates to keep families informed about student progress.



*Child care in local communities is directly impacted by the decisions schools are making about reopening this fall.*

*Child care providers can help meet the needs of working families with school-age children ages 5-12 who need child care options that accommodate local school schedules.*

*Families are now looking for child care options that can support distance learning for their school-age children.*

*Schools are seeking child care providers who can be partners in child success during the pandemic.*

