

Before and After School Care: What to Consider When Selecting a Program for Your Child

When selecting before and after school care for your child, there are several key factors parents should consider to ensure a safe, nurturing, and enriching environment.

1. **Safety and Security:** The facility should have robust safety protocols, including secure entry points, regular staff training in emergency procedures, and appropriate child-to-staff ratios. Robbins Children's Programs works hard to ensure the safety of the children in their care. RCP has doors with electric locks at all entry points. Staff fulfill trainings on fire safety routes, safe mode (lock-downs), and emergency protocols regularly throughout the year. RCP also checks the ID of any new pick up to ensure that children are only released into the care of approved adults.
2. **Staff Qualifications:** Ensure the caregivers are experienced and qualified, with backgrounds in education or child development. They should also be warm, patient, and able to handle various child behaviors. The staff at RCP care deeply for the children in their care. RCP works to hire staff who are nurturing of children's development. RCP Staff also undertake hours of professional development to keep up to date on the latest research and methods in child care.
3. **Activities and Curriculum:** Look for programs that offer a balanced mix of academic support, recreational activities, and opportunities for social interaction. This helps children stay engaged and continue learning outside school hours. In RCP's School Age Program, the educators work diligently to create curriculum that gives the children the room to engage in unique and thought provoking activities. They provide homework support and are open to making connections and working collaboratively with the children's public school teachers. RCP curriculum provides a strong focus on STEAM curriculum. RCP Staff also work hard to ensure the children are supported in their social-emotional development. RCP has a strong anti-bullying program where they work to teach the children empathy and the power of their words.
4. **Communication:** The program should have clear lines of communication with parents, providing regular updates on your child's progress and activities. Open communication is crucial for addressing any concerns promptly. RCP believes strongly in the partnership between educators and families. Educators are open and encourage collaboration with families to ensure that the children in their care receive every opportunity the program has to provide. RCP offers a number of communication styles to families. RCP provides messaging and pictures through our Procure App to keep families updated on their children's day-to-day activities. Families can also request a meeting with their child's

educator at any time. RCP works to make family meetings as accessible as possible offering in person, phone call, and video call connections. RCP believes that having a strong team relationship with families improves the educational experience of our students.

5. **Convenience:** Consider the location and hours of operation. The care facility should fit seamlessly into your family's daily routine, reducing stress for both you and your child. Robbins Children's Programs is conveniently located just off of I-95 off Exit 7. RCP serves a wide community including Attleboro, North Attleboro, Plainville, and more. Our School Age program provides bussing for children to and from the Attleboro and North Attleboro public schools. Robbins Children's Programs also provides an extended day of care with hours ranging from 6:30am-5:30pm.
6. **References and Reviews:** Lastly, seek recommendations from other parents and check reviews. Visiting the facility in person can also give you a better sense of its environment and culture. By visiting <https://www.robbinscp.org/> families can find reviews from our current families and great information about our program. You can also find reviews and feedback on our program on our social media pages.

By carefully evaluating these factors, you can select a before and after school care program that best supports your child's needs and complements your family's lifestyle. Robbins Children's Programs works hard to be an inclusive program that provides a safe, nurturing, and secure environment that families can trust and allows its students to grow and thrive. You can reach out to our Enrollment Coordinator, Cheryl Brennan (info@Robbinscp.org), with any questions you may have about enrolling your child or taking a tour program.