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CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY, RECREATION AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

WHAT IS C.A.R.E.?

C.A.R.E. is a before- and after-school program provided by the Palatine Park District to families with children attending kindergarten-sixth grade at the Community Consolidated School District 15 schools that are located in Palatine. We provide safe, quality childcare where children have the opportunity to focus on their interests while engaging in a variety of structured and non-structured activities including arts and crafts, hands-on projects, board and card games, and active play outside and in the gym. Quiet time is also provided for children who would like to work on homework.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

The C.A.R.E. program is available at 10 of the District's elementary schools. It is for children in Kindergarten through 6th grade. Children must attend the participating elementary school in order to register for the C.A.R.E. program at that school.

KINDERGARTEN OPTIONS

- Children who attend a **MORNING KINDERGARTEN CLASS** can sign up for the Morning Kindergarten Add-On program. Childcare is provided for extended-hours from the time the morning kindergarten class is dismissed until 6 p.m. Transportation is provided to and from the Half-Day Kindergarten Add-On program location. Children in a morning Kindergarten class can also sign up for the Before-School C.A.R.E. option at their site.
- Children who attend an **AFTERNOON KINDERGARTEN CLASS** can sign up for the After-School C.A.R.E. option at their site. Before-School C.A.R.E. is not available for children in a half-day Afternoon kindergarten class.
- Children who attend a **FULL-DAY (DUAL LANGUAGE) KINDERGARTEN CLASS** can sign up for any of the Before-School and After-School C.A.R.E. options at their site.

HOURS OF OPERATION

- **Before-School** C.A.R.E. runs from 7 a.m. until the start of school.
- **After-School** C.A.R.E. runs from the end of school until 6 p.m.
- **The After Morning Kindergarten Add-On Program** runs from the end of the morning kindergarten class until 6 p.m.

PROGRAM LOCATION

BEFORE-SCHOOL AND AFTER-SCHOOL C.A.R.E.: Each of the 10 participating schools uses a designated classroom as their base where parents drop off in the morning and pick up in the evening.

AFTER MORNING KINDERGARTEN ADD-ON PROGRAM: The Morning Kindergarten Add-On Program operates at the Palatine Park District Community Center.

WHERE TO APPLY

Enroll online (www.palatineparks.org) or in person at one of the Palatine Park District locations listed below.

Community Center
250 E. Wood St.
Palatine, IL 60067

Birchwood
435 W. Illinois Ave.
Palatine, IL 60067

Falcon Park
2195 N. Hicks Rd.
Palatine, IL 60074

REGISTRATION CANCELLATIONS

Registration cancellation requests received up to 10 days before the start of school will receive a full refund, minus the \$60 registration fee. **All approved refunds will be applied as a household credit** unless otherwise requested. If another form of refund is requested, a \$5.00 processing fee will be applied.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

We work closely with NWSRA (Northwest Special Recreation Association) to provide assistance to children who require additional support or accommodations in order to successfully participate in the activities of the program. Inclusion is the opportunity for someone to participate in their park district/recreation department program with additional supports put in place to help accommodate and ensure a successful experience for everyone involved.

Inclusion services are designed to provide the least restrictive environment while providing the maximum opportunity to participate. Assistance varies depending on the needs of the individual and can range from working with program staff to implement different strategies or ideas on how to adjust the program to meet the needs of all participants, it may involve using adaptive equipment, or it may be adding an extra staff (inclusion support staff) into the program to work more closely with the individual enrolled in the program. Support can involve such things as physically assisting the person to be part of the activity, and/or assisting him or her to be a part of social interactions. It can involve helping the person acquire particular skills and competencies, and/or adaptation of part or all of an activity.

If an aide is needed or if our staff require additional training in order to best serve the needs of the child, we will work with NWSRA to provide the best possible experience for your child.

Please indicate on the registration form if you would like to be considered for an aide or if there is any information that will help us offer the best accommodations for your child.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the child to staff ratio? C.A.R.E. staffs at a minimum of 1 staff member to 10 or less children.

When does C.A.R.E. operate? The program is offered to students throughout the school year on days when school is in session. After-School C.A.R.E. is not offered on half days of school. The program operates Monday through Friday, and is open from 7 a.m. until the start of school and after school until 6 p.m. C.A.R.E. is not open on days when school is closed.

Is there a bus to take children to and from C.A.R.E.? No. Parents are responsible for the transportation of their children to and from their C.A.R.E. site.

Is there a discount if I have more than one child in C.A.R.E.? A discount is available for two or more children enrolled in the C.A.R.E. program. The additional child(ren)'s fee is reduced by approximately 10%. Discounts are applied to the lowest priced options.

Why is After Morning Kindergarten Add-On Program run offsite? C.A.R.E. shares a space with classrooms in the District and those rooms are not available during the school day as they are being used for instruction.

How will my child find C.A.R.E. after school? On your child's first day at C.A.R.E. a school or C.A.R.E. staff member will walk him/her to the C.A.R.E. room. Once the children are comfortable they may come on their own. For the Morning Kindergarten Add-On Programs, kindergartners will be escorted to and from the bus by staff all year.

What if my child requires medication while they are at C.A.R.E.? Parents must fill out the Medication Authorization Form. Forms are available at the C.A.R.E. site, and at the Palatine Park District. These forms allow our staff to administer the medication during C.A.R.E. hours.

Is homework assistance available? Because of the number of children who require assistance during homework time, the staff members are unable to check each child's homework for accuracy or provide the type of one-on-one homework help that is available from a private tutor.

What are my chances of getting in the program if I end up on a wait list? If your child is placed on a wait list for C.A.R.E. the Park District will notify you if a spot becomes available if someone drops from the program at your child's school C.A.R.E. site. It is strongly recommended that you enroll your child in alternate child care in the community as spots may not become available during the school year.

Do I get reimbursed for snow days? If the school district uses snow days that will be made up at the end of the year, parents will not get reimbursed as that day will be made up at the end of the school year.

Are any meals provided? No. Due to food allergies, children must bring snacks from home to eat at the program. Children participating in the Morning Kindergarten Add-On (extended-day) Program must bring a lunch each day. Refrigeration is not available.