

Did you know?

87%

of students say afterschool programs helped them get **better grades.**

Source: Afterschool Alliance

We bring people together through strong local and statewide partnerships to help children, youth, and families thrive.

CHOOSING AN AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

A resource from the **Connecticut Network for Children and Youth** connecting CT families with quality afterschool programs since 1989.



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Choosing the Right Afterschool Program

Choosing the right program for your family can feel like a big decision, but it doesn't have to be an overwhelming one. We know that every community offers a different range of options. This guide helps you ask the right questions, know what to look for, and feel confident in the decision you make.

START HERE

Does your child want to run and play, or wind down with homework and a favorite hobby? Think about what would make them excited to go.

Ask about the day-to-day rhythm

- ✓ Is there a mix of structured activities and free time?
- ✓ How is homework time handled?
- ✓ What happens on early-release or no-school days?



KEEP EXPLORING

Look for connection, not just supervision.

- ✓ How do staff build relationships with kids?
- ✓ How are conflicts between children handled?
- ✓ How does the program communicate with families?



CHECK THE FIT

Consider logistics honestly.

- ✓ Does the location and schedule work for your family?
- ✓ Ask about pricing and payment schedules so you know what to expect.

ASK FOR HELP

You don't have to search alone.

- ✓ Ask your child's school who they recommend.
- ✓ Check with the district for a list of approved or partner programs.
- ✓ Contact community organizations directly, such as the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, etc.

TRUST YOUR GUT & TAKE ACTION

Visit the program if you can.

Numbers and brochures only tell part of the story. If possible, visit in person.

- ✓ Does it feel warm? Organized? Like somewhere your child would want to be?
- ✓ Are the kids engaged in activities?

FIND A PROGRAM NEAR YOU

Scan to visit our Afterschool Program Directory

