



# Hidden Treasures<sup>®</sup> Childcare

## SAVE ON CHILDCARE DCF FUNDED PROGRAMS

**Reduce** your childcare **expenses** with programs funded by Duval County's Department of Children and Families.

We understand that **finding quality childcare** can be expensive.

Fortunately, DCF provide programs **designed to directly assist families like yours with these costs**. Read below to learn more and our **staff can help you enroll today!**







# Find Affordable Childcare Now: Duval Program Information

## Helping with the Cost of Early Learning (School Readiness Program through ELC of Duval):

- **What it is:** This program is designed to make early education and care more accessible for working or schooling parents with lower incomes.
- **How it helps you:** You'll likely pay a portion of the child care cost (called a "copay") based on your family's situation. The state then helps cover the rest, up to a certain limit.
- **Who might qualify:** Generally, families earning below a certain income level (around 150% of the Federal Poverty Level) who are working or going to school at least 20 hours a week are often eligible.
- **How much help can you get?** The exact amount varies greatly from family to family. Some families with very low incomes might pay nothing at all! While the maximum amount the government might contribute in Florida in 2025 was reported to be around \$1,215 a month for babies and \$865 for preschoolers, the specific maximums in Duval County could be a bit different. Your personal copay will depend on your income and family size.

## Free Pre-K for All 4-Year-Olds (VPK – Voluntary Prekindergarten):

- **What it is:** This is an awesome opportunity for all four-year-old children living in Florida to get a free, high-quality early learning experience, no matter your income!
- **How it helps you:** The government directly pays participating preschools a set amount per child for the VPK program hours (usually around 540 hours during the school year).
- **Important note:** This program focuses specifically on the educational part of preschool and isn't meant to cover the cost of full-day child care.



