

After school care in Copenhagen (Children and youths aged 10-18 years)

In Denmark, there is a longstanding tradition of children and young people attending after school care when school is over. After school care has a great influence on the development, learning and well-being of children and youths.

Children and youths are eager to attend after school activities. They form friendships, are safe with adult supervision and are able to decide what they want to do with their free time. During after school care, children can play and be exposed to a wide range of activities that motivate, challenge and strengthen their desire to learn. In this document, you can read more about after school activities for children and youths aged 10-18 years.

What is a youth club/a youth centre?

A youth club/a youth centre is an institution for children and youths aged 10-18 years. Children and youths attend youth clubs/centres every day after school is over. In Copenhagen, approximately 70% of children and youths are enrolled in after school clubs/centres.

Children usually start in a youth centre before 4th grade, i.e. at the age of 9-10. Children attending 4th and 5th grades are guaranteed a place. When children reach the age of 14, they attend a youth club. The child must be registered with the Placement Guide (Pladsanvisningen): <http://www.kk.dk/klub>.

Friendships and social competencies

At after school institutions, a child makes friends and learns Danish and the Danish culture in a natural setting. The teachers work with the children's abilities to cooperate, resolve conflicts and understand feelings and intentions of their own as well that of others. Children will also develop an understanding of democracy, worldview and inclusion in relation to their differences.

Activities

Youth centres and youth clubs offer a variety of games and activities. For example, children and youths can participate in sewing, cooking, playing table tennis or Playstation. They can decide what they want to do at the youth club/centre. Children and youths have the opportunity to be in several places where different activities take place.

By participating in the activities, the child also learns more specific words in Danish. The teachers support the child's or youth's language development through daily activities.

Youth centres/clubs also have activities outside the institution. The staff can reach out to bigger children who are hanging out on the streets and get them to be involved in different activities.

Everyday life in youth centres/youth clubs

Children and youths attend youth centres/youth clubs on their own after school. When they arrive, they can choose games or activities they prefer. They are also offered some snacks in the late afternoon.

A small fee is required for children to participate in activities, excursions, etc. You can ask the staff about how you can pay for your child's activities.

Parents can decide whether their children can come and go as they wish to the youth centre/club and inform the staff about plans with their children.

Youth centres/clubs have different opening hours for different age groups. For older children, it is often open in the evenings. You should ask the individual youth centre/club about its opening hours.

During the school holidays, children can stay at a youth centre/club all day but this requires enrolment.

Your responsibility as a parent

In order to attend a youth centre/club for children aged 10-13 years, the child must be registered with The Placement Guide (Pladsanvisningen): <http://www.kk.dk/klub>. In some cases, you might be eligible for a subsidy or a free place.

All children in 4th or 5th grade can get a place in the club. You must also enrol your 13-18 year old child in a youth club. The child must be registered with The Placement Guide (Pladsanvisningen): <http://www.kk.dk/klub>.

When your child starts in a youth centre/club, it is important that you contact the staff and talk to them about your child's language skills, interests, well-being and development so that they can take good care of your child.

It is a good idea to have ongoing communication with the staff about your child and your expectations of the institution.

You should also keep yourself informed of events or activities that are going on at the youth centre/club that your child is attending. It is also a good idea to attend parent meetings which are regularly organised by the youth centre/club.

If you want to meet the staff and talk about your child or your family, you should contact them. You should always ask the staff or management if you would like more information.