

# CLEARINGHOUSE FOR MILITARY FAMILY READINESS

## **Pre-School, Pre-K, and After-School Options and Activities Near Ellsworth AFB, SD: Resource Review**

Clearinghouse Technical Assistance Team

As of September 18, 2025

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**PennState**

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## Introduction

The Technical Assistance (TA) team at the Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness at Penn State (Clearinghouse) conducted a rapid review of publicly available resources on the topic of pre-school and pre-kindergarten (pre-K) options or activities for military children who live on or near Ellsworth Air Force Base (AFB). Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and the resources provided are not endorsed by the Clearinghouse.

This report contains the following elements:

- Background information on pre-school and pre-K in South Dakota,
- A list of pre-school/pre-K options and contact information for each school,
- Available early learning resources,
- Alternative options of activities in the Ellsworth AFB area with children ages 0-5,
- A list of state parks in the area,
- A list of local after-school care options, and
- Online resources for parents.

## Background

Early childhood education (ECE) is a crucial part of preparing children for kindergarten and supporting their school readiness and success. However, quality ECE programs may be costly, which can pose a barrier to accessing these services for some families. Yearly childcare costs can range from \$150 per family to \$48,800 per family (Cannon et al., 2017). As a solution to costly ECE, many states provide state-funded pre-K programs. However, South Dakota is one of only six states that does not offer a state-funded pre-K program (Friedman-Krauss et al., 2021). As of 2024, South Dakota has the highest percentage of working parents in the nation - 8% higher than the national average of 68%. This situation leaves these parents with a higher need to find suitable early childhood education options (The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2024).

Other subsidized programs, such as Head Start, have income limits, and this criterion disqualifies many families from being eligible for cost-affordable services. For instance,

in 2024, a family of four would need to earn under \$30,000 per year to be eligible for South Dakota Head Start programs (South Dakota Head Start, 2024). In 2021, in South Dakota, the median household incomes \$66,843, which far exceeds the federal poverty guidelines but may not allow enough income to cover the cost for a full-day ECE program (The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2024).

In response to the educational needs of families with young children in South Dakota, this report offers a list of potential preschool/pre-K options and additional activities in the local area for children ages 0-5. The South Dakota Department of Social Services and the Department of Health also offer recommendations and guidance for programs for families with young children.

## Pre-school/Pre-K Options

### List of Pre-school/Pre-K Programs in or around Ellsworth AFB

<p><b>Banana Bunch Childcare Center</b> 924 E St Patrick Street Rapid City, SD 57701 605-341-2333</p>	<p><b>Candyland Child Development Center</b> 471 Constitution Drive Box Elder, SD 57719 605-791-1232 <a href="https://www.candylandchildcare.com/">https://www.candylandchildcare.com/</a></p>	<p><b>Challenging Minds Care Center</b> 8084 Stage Stop Road Summerset, SD 57718 605-791-2049</p>
<p><b>Children's House Montessori</b> 4021 Range Road Rapid City, SD 57702 605-791-0466 <a href="https://www.chkids.net/">https://www.chkids.net/</a></p>	<p><b>Cinnamon Hill Preschool</b> 1200 Clark Street Rapid City, SD 57701 605-343-2978 <a href="https://www.cinnamonhillpreschool.com/">https://www.cinnamonhillpreschool.com/</a></p>	<p><b>Countryside Daycare</b> 15046 225th Street Box Elder, SD 605-381-3984 <a href="https://countryside daycare.net/contact-us">https://countryside daycare.net/contact-us</a></p>
<p><b>Creative Kids Too</b> 4605 Easy Street Rapid City, SD 57702 605-348-7700 <a href="https://www.creativekidsdaycare.com/">https://www.creativekidsdaycare.com/</a></p>	<p><b>Dream Kids Preschool and Children's Center – Open Bible Church</b> 2225 E Saint Patrick St Rapid City, SD 57701 605-343-7326 <a href="https://openbiblerc.org/dreamkids/">https://openbiblerc.org/dreamkids/</a></p>	<p><b>Ellsworth AFB Child Development Center</b> 1314 LeMay Blvd Ellsworth AFB, SD 57706 605-385-2488 <a href="https://www.ellsworthfss.com/index.php/family/child-development-center">https://www.ellsworthfss.com/index.php/family/child-development-center</a></p>
<p><b>Fit-n-Fun Preschool</b> 3660 Sturgis Road Rapid City, SD 57702 605-341-0078 <a href="https://fitnfun.org/">https://fitnfun.org/</a></p>	<p><b>Forest Kidz</b> 232 Markay Place Rapid City, SD 57702 605-721-1435 <a href="https://kazumitinant.wixsite.com/forestkidz">https://kazumitinant.wixsite.com/forestkidz</a></p>	<p><b>South Canyon Lutheran Friendship Preschool</b> 700 44th Street Rapid City, SD 57702 605-343-4887 <a href="https://friendshippreschoolsclc.com/">https://friendshippreschoolsclc.com/</a></p>
<p><b>Head Start – three sites (Douglas, Monroe, &amp; East Adams) in Rapid City and Box Elder run by Youth &amp; Family Services (YFS)</b> <a href="https://www.youthandfamilyservices.org/rapid-city-head-start/">https://www.youthandfamilyservices.org/rapid-city-head-start/</a></p>	<p><b>Little Cubs Daycare &amp; Preschool</b> 4833 S Pitch Drive Rapid City, SD 605-877-1256 <a href="http://www.rapidvalleycubs.com/">http://www.rapidvalleycubs.com/</a></p>	<p><b>Little Owl's Daycare and Preschool</b> 110 N Campbell Street, Suite E Rapid City, SD 57703 605-718-0132 <a href="https://www.littleowlsdaycarepreschool.com/">https://www.littleowlsdaycarepreschool.com/</a></p>
<p><b>North Point Childcare and Preschool</b> 1292 N Maple Avenue Rapid City, SD 57701 605-721-7164</p>	<p><b>Our Little Treasures Daycare &amp; Preschool</b> 1123 Kansas City Street Rapid City, SD 57701 605-585-6266 <a href="https://www.ourlittletreasures.org/">https://www.ourlittletreasures.org/</a></p>	<p><b>Westside Pre-School &amp; Daycare</b> 3500 Canyon Lake Drive Rapid City, SD 57702 605-342-7474</p>
<p><b>YMCA of Rapid City</b> 815 Kansas City Street Rapid City, SD 57701 605-718-9622 <a href="https://www.rcymca.org">https://www.rcymca.org</a></p>		

## Early Learning Resources

### **Childcare Aware of America (CCAoA)**

CCAoA helps families locate quality, affordable childcare in their local area. They also assist more than 10,000 military children each year by providing fee assistance and respite childcare options. This website outlines and explains the assistance available to military families and a variety of online resources.

#### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://www.childcareaware.org/>
- Phone: 800-424-2246

### **Early Childhood Connections**

Early Childhood Connections is a not-for-profit corporation that offers a variety of services that provide education and support to those caring for children such as childcare providers, teachers, and parents. They deliver early education, professional-development opportunities and resources for parents and a program called, Starting Strong Rapid City, which is a scholarship initiative offered to preschool- and pre-K-aged children.

#### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://www.earlychildhoodconnections.com/>
- Phone: 605-342-6464
- Address: 3645 Sturgis Road, Suite 110, Rapid City, South Dakota, 57702

### **South Dakota Birth to Three**

The South Dakota Birth to Three program offers early intervention support and services for children with developmental delays or disabilities. This program focuses on the needs of the child and also centers on the needs of parents and families who support the child. Based on your family's needs, the Early Intervention team at South Dakota Birth to Three can help you with different supports, such as service coordination, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or speech and language pathology.

#### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://doe.sd.gov/birthto3/>

- Phone: (605) 773-3678
- Address: 800 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501

### **South Dakota Public Broadcasting (SDPB) Early Learning Initiative**

The SDPB Early Learning Initiative is a comprehensive program that provides educators, home schoolers, daycare providers, parents, and guardians the tools they can use to prepare children for kindergarten. Because South Dakota doesn't have a formal, funded, standards-based preschool program available to students, this initiative helps to prepare children for the beginning of their formal education.

#### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://www.sdpb.org/earlylearning/>
- Phone: 605-677-5861
- Address: 555 N. Dakota Street, P.O. Box 5000, Vermillion, SD , 57069
- Cost: FREE

### **South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines Document**

The South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines Document outlines developmentally appropriate goals that are divided by age group including infant, toddler, and preschooler. It was developed by a team of parents and professionals in the early childhood education field. Teachers, childcare providers, school administrators, and other professionals who support and promote children's development and learning can utilize the goals presented in this document. In addition, this document is a helpful resource for parents to determine if their children are on track by using the goals and developmental indicators incorporated in the guidelines. Guide plans for developing activities and lessons are also included.

#### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://doe.sd.gov/headstart/documents/early-learning-guidelines.pdf>

## **SD Step Ahead**

SD Step Ahead is a website that supports early learners. It includes developmental indicators for different ages based on The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) principles, information about different learning domains, and an interactive map of local services. In addition, book recommendations, activities, online resources, learning strategies, and other South Dakota learning standards and information are available. Their mission is “to promote healthy child development by educating, inspiring and providing information for parents, caregivers, teachers and Higher Education. SD Step Ahead is a comprehensive early childhood initiative made possible by the South Dakota Department of Education” (SDStepAhead, 2021).

### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://sdstepahead.com/>
- Phone: 605-773-3678

## **United Way of the Black Hills**

United Way of the Black Hills unites volunteers, advocates, donors, and nonprofits to address the major needs of the local area, which includes birth to age 5 childcare services. Their mission is to “unite people and resources to improve lives in the Black Hills by delivering measurable long-term solutions to community issues in education, financial stability and health” (United Way, 2021). They provide programs such as Black Hills Reads, which encourages children to become competent readers, and Early Learner South Dakota, which offers early learning resources for communities, families, and providers.

### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://www.unitedwayblackhills.org/>
- Phone: 605-343-5872
- Address: 621 6th Street, Suite 100, Rapid City, SD 57701

## **Alternative Activities for Children ages 0-5**

### **Bear Country U.S.A.**

Bear Country U.S.A. allows you to observe black bears, elk, mountain lions, buffalo, reindeer, and other wildlife in their natural environment from your vehicle. After you drive, take a wildlife walk around the area where you can view park offspring, smaller animals, and baby bears.

### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://www.bearcountryusa.com/>
- Phone: 605-343-2290
- Address: 13820 S. Highway 16 – Rapid City, SD 57702
- Cost: Private Vehicle Rates
  - Adult - \$24
  - Child (5-12) - \$19
  - Senior (62+) - \$22
  - Military Adult - \$22
  - Military Child - \$17
  - Maximum/Vehicle - \$80
  - Season Pass - \$200
  - Children 4 & under - FREE

### **Chapel in the Hills**

Chapel in the Hills is an exact reproduction of the famous Borgund Stavkirke of Laerdal, Norway, which was a wooden church built without using nails but only tongue and groove construction. South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) conducts worship services at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel during the summer. Visitors are encouraged to wander the chapel grounds or take a walk on the Meditation Trail - a path complete with benches and statuary, which provides an additional place for reflection, prayer, and meditation. In addition, you can visit the stabbur, the authentic grass roofed store house that houses a gift shop of Scandinavian merchandise, books, chapel souvenirs, and locally handmade Scandinavian craft items such as hardanger, rosemaling, and wood carvings. A museum is also on site, and it is a log cabin that features Scandinavian antiques.

### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://www.chapel-in-the-hills.org/index.html>
- Phone: 605-342-8281
- 3788 Chapel Lane, Rapid City, SD 57702
- Cost: FREE

### **City of Presidents**

The City of Presidents Walking Guide helps you explore the life-like statues of the Presidents of the United States arranged throughout downtown Rapid City, SD. This website offers an interactive map that shows the location of all of the Presidents' statues. You can click on a President's name for more information about the President and his sculpture.

### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://presidentsrc.com/>

### **Dahl Arts Center**

The Dahl Arts Center houses an event center, five visual arts galleries, an interactive children's gallery, the Cyclorama Mural of American History, a gift shop, classrooms for artists of all ages and abilities, and Emerging Artist performing space. This multi-purpose community arts center includes contemporary visual arts, arts education, and performing arts.

### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://www.rapidcityartscouncil.org/education.html>
- Phone: 605-394-4101
- Address: 713 7th Street, Rapid City, SD 57701
- Cost: FREE

### **D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery & Archives**

The D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives, formerly Spearfish National Fish Hatchery, is one of the oldest operating hatcheries in the country that is dedicated to fish culture and resource management. The Hatchery features the Von Bayer Museum of Fish Culture and contains the largest collection of fishery artifacts in the country; the

Booth House, which features expansive porches, period furnishings, and Booth Family memorabilia; the Railcar that showcases a replica of Fish Car No. 3, which was used to move fish from hatcheries to lakes; the restored Yellowstone Boat that was responsible for carrying early hatchery workers to Yellowstone National Park to collect trout eggs; and 10 acres of ponds, rock walls, hiking trails, scenic overlooks, and a gift shop. Scavenger hunts and events held throughout the year are offered. In addition, guests are encouraged to feed the trout in the ponds.

### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://dcboothfishhatchery.org/>
- Phone: 605-642-7730
- Address: 423 Hatchery Circle, Spearfish, SD 57783
- Cost: FREE

### **Dinosaur Park**

Dinosaur Park is located on a ridge of sandstone that encircles the Black Hills of South Dakota. Along this ridge, dinosaurs of the Late Jurassic and Early Cretaceous periods have been found. This park includes seven "life-size" concrete and steel reproductions of extinct creatures.

### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://www.blackhillsbadlands.com/business/dinosaur-park>
- Phone: 605-343-8687
- Address: 940 Skyline Drive, Rapid City, SD 57701
- Cost: FREE

## **Holbrook Library**

The Holbrook Library is the on-base library at Ellsworth AFB. They house a collection of over 43,000 items, and it is set up like a bookstore where books are grouped by subjects not by using the Dewey decimal system. They also have an extensive list of detailed community events.

### **Contact information**

- Website: <https://www.dodmwrlibraries.org/ellsworth-air-force-base-holbrook-library>
- Phone: 605-385-1688
- Address: 2650 Doolittle Drive Building 3910 Ellsworth AFB, SD 57706
- Cost: FREE

## **Journey Museum and Learning Center**

The Journey Museum and Learning Center is a natural history museum that brings together five major prehistoric and historic collections and offers a dynamic atmosphere that includes arts, science, and culture.

They offer **STEAM Education**, which provides an opportunity for toddlers and younger children to get hands-on experience in the areas of science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM). See <https://www.journeymuseum.org/youth-programs> to learn more about their STEAM weekend education programs. They also offer the Turtle Soup lunchtime program featuring engaging talks and hearty soup. These take place on Fridays in the fall and spring from noon to 1:00PM. The Journey Museum and Learning Center also offers online educational activities such as videos, experiments, and projects you can do at home with your children.

### **Contact information**

- Website: <https://www.journeymuseum.org/visit>
- Phone: 605-394-6923
- Address: 222 New York Street, Rapid City, SD 57701
- Cost:
  - Adults (ages 18+) \$14

- Seniors and Military (ages 62+) \$12
- Students (ages 6-17) \$9
- Children 5 & under FREE with family

### **Main Street Square**

Main Street Square is a fun-filled public space that features around 150 events a year from live concerts to family-friendly festivals. In the summer, there is a splash park with interactive fountains, and, in the winter, the square transforms into an ice-skating rink with rentals available on site.

#### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://www.visitrapidcity.com/things-to-do/attractions/main-street-square>
- Phone: 605-716-7979
- Address: 526 Main Street, Suite 240, Rapid City, SD 57701
- Cost: FREE

### **Reptile Gardens**

Reptile Gardens is a premier South Dakota destination that houses some of the world's deadliest snakes and is in the Guinness Book of World Records as the World's Largest Reptile Zoo. Reptile Gardens has more species and subspecies of reptiles than any other zoo or wild animal park in the world.

#### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://www.reptilegardens.com/>
- Phone: 800-335-0275, 605-342-5873
- Address: Reptile Gardens, Box 620, Rapid City, South Dakota 57709
- Cost: Depends on season – Visit <https://www.reptilegardens.com/visit/> for specific rates

## **South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks**

**The Outdoor Campus – Rapid City** provides hands-on experiences in hunting, fishing, and other outdoor skills. Free educational classes for youth, adults, and families are held throughout the year. Visitors can explore indoor exhibits that showcase a variety of western South Dakota habitats and wildlife. A 4,600 gallon freshwater aquarium is located on site. The Campus also boasts over 1.5 miles of nature trails.

### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://gfp.sd.gov/toc-west/>
- Phone: 605-394-2310
- Address: 4130 Adventure Trail, Rapid City, SD 57702
- Cost: FREE

## **South Dakota Mines Museum of Geology**

The Museum of Geology includes exhibits on Paleontology, the study of ancient life, and Mineralogy, the study of minerals, including gems, crystals, and the rocks they form. In addition, you can see mounted skeletons of dinosaurs, mammals, marine reptiles, and dozens of rare fossils from the White River Badlands.

### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://www.sdsmt.edu/student-life/campus-points-of-interest/museum-of-geology/index.html>
- Phone: 605-394-2467
- Address: 501 E St Joseph Street, Rapid City, SD 57701, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the O’Harra Building
- Cost: FREE

## **Storybook Island**

Storybook Island is a free park with playsets from storybook characters that children can play and climb on. Storybook Island was founded in 1959 by Merle Gunderson and the Rapid City Rotary Clubs. The mission of Storybook Island is “To provide a free, safe, educational environment for those young in years or young at heart to experience the

power of imagination” (Storybook Island, 2021). They will re-open for the summer season in late May 2026.

### **Contact information**

- Website: <https://storybookisland.org/>
- Phone: 1-605-342-6357
- Address: 1301 Sheridan Lake Road, Rapid City, South Dakota 57702
- Cost: FREE
- 

## List of State Parks

### **Angostura Recreation Area**

Angostura Reservoir offers 36 miles of shoreline and some of the nicest sandy beaches in the state. It is one of the few large reservoirs in western South Dakota, and it offers areas for camping, boating, fishing, and swimming.

### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://gfp.sd.gov/parks/detail/angostura-recreation-area/>
- Phone: 605-773-2886
- Address: 13157 N. Angostura Road, Hot Springs, SD 57747
- Cost:
  - **Daily:** \$10 for residents/\$15 for nonresidents
  - **Annual:** \$40 for residents/\$60 for nonresidents

### **Bear Butte State Park**

Bear Butte State Park is home to Mato Paha or "Bear Mountain," the Lakota name for the geological formation of several intrusions of igneous rock in the Black Hills. The mountain is sacred to many Native American Indian tribes who come here to hold religious ceremonies.

### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://gfp.sd.gov/parks/detail/bear-butte-state-park/>
- Phone: 605-347-5240
- Address: 20250 Highway 79, PO Box 688, Sturgis, SD 57785

- Cost:
  - **Daily:** \$10 for residents/\$15 for nonresidents
  - **Annual:** \$40 for residents/\$60 for nonresidents

### **Custer State Park**

Custer State Park is in the Black Hills of South Dakota and is home to 71,000 acres of abundant wildlife, and camping, hiking, biking, swimming, fishing, or relaxing are available.

#### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://gfp.sd.gov/parks/detail/custer-state-park/>
- Phone: 605-255-4515
- Address: 13329 US Highway 16A, Custer, SD 57730
- Cost:
  - **Daily:** 7-Day License: \$25 per vehicle | Motorcoach License: \$4 per person per visit
  - **Annual:** \$40 for residents/\$60 for nonresidents

### **George S. Mickelson Trail**

The George S. Mickelson Trail, in the Black Hills, is 109 miles long and contains more than 100 converted railroad bridges and four rock tunnels. The trail surface is primarily crushed limestone and gravel. There are 15 trailheads, and parking, self-sale trail pass stations, vault toilets, and tables are available.

#### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://gfp.sd.gov/parks/detail/george-s--mickelson-trail/>
- Phone: 605-584-3896
- Address: 11361 Nevada Gulch Road, Lead, SD 57754
- Cost:
  - **Daily:** \$5 daily (required per person ages 12 and over)
  - **Annual:** \$20 (required per person ages 12 and over)

### **Mount Rushmore National Memorial Park**

Mount Rushmore features the faces of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln carved into the granite of the Black Hills. A Junior Ranger program is available to teach children about nature and have them interact with the park at their own pace. The programs available for children include the following:

- Junior Ranger Trainee
  - For children ages 3-4. No fee. Young visitors learn about Mount Rushmore and the natural resources through exploration activities found within a learning booklet. A Junior Ranger Badge is awarded upon completion of the booklet.
- Junior Ranger Activity Book
  - For children ages 5-12. No fee. Youngsters learn about Mount Rushmore as they explore the memorial through the activities inside a booklet. A Junior Ranger Badge and a certificate are awarded upon completion of the booklet. Once the certificate is obtained, a souvenir patch may also be purchased in the Visitor Center or Information Center bookstore.
- Rushmore Ranger Activity Booklet
  - For ages 13 and up. No fee. This booklet allows older children and adults to participate in learning activities around the park and receive a certificate upon completion allowing for purchase of a souvenir patch.

### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://www.nps.gov/moru/index.htm>
- Phone: 605-574-2523
- Address: 13000 Highway 244, Building 31, Suite 1, Keystone, SD 57751
- Cost: FREE Parking fees may apply

### **Rocky Point Recreation Area**

Rocky Point Recreation Area is located on the Belle Fourche Reservoir. The 8,000-acre reservoir was created in 1911 when Orman Dam was constructed to store water for agricultural use. In 1989, Orman Dam was designated a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://gfp.sd.gov/parks/detail/rocky-point-recreation-area/>
- Phone: 605-773-2408

- Website: 18513 Fisherman's Road, Belle Fourche, SD 57717
- Cost:
  - **Daily:** \$10 for residents/\$15 for nonresidents
  - **Annual:** \$40 for residents/\$60 for nonresidents

### **Sheps Canyon Recreation Area**

Nestled along Sheps Canyon Bay, Sheps Canyon Campground is the newest campground on Angostura Reservoir. It offers access to the boat ramp and shore fishing opportunities.

#### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://gfp.sd.gov/parks/detail/sheps-canyon-recreation-area/>
- Phone: 605-773-2886
- Address: 28150 South Boat Ramp Road, Hot Springs, SD 57747
- Cost:
  - **Daily:** \$10 for residents/\$15 for nonresidents
  - **Annual:** \$40 for residents/\$60 for nonresidents

### **Spearfish Canyon Nature Area**

Spearfish Canyon Nature Area includes the Roughlock Falls, Spearfish Falls, and the Savoy Pond area. The canyon is considered one of the most beautiful locations in the Black Hills. You can enjoy bird watching, fishing, or picnicking.

#### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://gfp.sd.gov/parks/detail/spearfish-canyon-nature-area/>
- Phone: 605.584.3896

## **After-school Programing**

### **21st Century Afterschool/Discovery Center (Rapid City Area Schools, Black Hills Special Services Cooperative)**

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (Discovery Center programs) are hosted at select Rapid City schools and other locations and are supported by the Black Hills Special Services Cooperative (BHSSC). These after-school programs provide students

with academic support, enrichment activities, and social-emotional skill building. In addition, these programs focus on helping students succeed in school while exploring STEM, arts, recreation, and community service. Programs are open to elementary and middle school students and are aligned with school district goals.

- Website: <https://bhssc.org/discovery>
- Phone: 605-347-4467
- Address: Various Rapid City schools (contact BHSSC for site list)
- Cost: Varies

### **YMCA of Rapid City — After-School Care**

This is a program for children in grades K-5 that runs during the school year and includes full-day programming when school is out for summer break. The YMCA's after-school care combines learning and play and involves instruction in the following themes and activities: STEAM; cultural awareness; indoor and outdoor physical activity; and character development based on the core values of honesty, caring, respect, and responsibility. Free time is also offered and supervised, and snacks are provided. YMCA states it's goal is to support whole-child development in a safe, structured, engaging setting.

- Website: <https://rcymca.org/after-school-care/>
- Phone: 605-718-9622
- Address: 815 Kansas City Street, Rapid City, SD 57701
- Cost: Varies

### **Fit N' Fun Childcare & Preschool — After-School Care**

Fit N' Fun offers after-school care designed to help parents when early dismissals, snow days, professional development/in-service days, or other school closures occur. Parents pick up children from certain Rapid City area schools and bring them to the facility where children are cared for until 6:00 p.m. On "no-school" days this program offers full-day care. The program emphasizes life skills; physical activity; safe learning; and a fun, nurturing environment.

- Website: <https://fitnfun.org/after-school-care/>
- Phone: (605) 341-0078

- Address: 3660 Sturgis Road, Rapid City, SD 57702
- Cost:
  - **After-school Care:** \$115/week
  - **No-School Days:** \$50/day (non-members), \$40/day (members)
  - **Early release days:** additional \$15 fee to cover staffing expenses

### **Youth & Family Services, Inc.**

Youth & Family Services (YFS) is a nonprofit organization that offers multiple programs designed for children from birth through age 18, parents, and the community. Their services cover early childhood education, family support, prevention programs, counseling, and enrichment. They emphasize support for low-income families and Native American communities. YFS offers a range of after-school programming.

- Website: <https://www.youthandfamilyservices.org/programs/>
- Phone: (605) 342-4195
- Address: 1920 N. Plaza Blvd., Rapid City, SD 57702
- Cost: Many of YFS's programs may be free or low-cost based on income.

### **Every Child Is Special — After-School Care (Grades K-5)**

Every Child Is Special offers after-school care for children in grades K-5. This program goes beyond helping students with homework and provides a healthy snack, structured activities, and outside time and uses facility vans to pick up children from select schools and transport them to the center. “No School Days” care (full day when school is out) is available from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and pre-registration and prepayment are required. This program intends to teach, model, and foster resilience, kindness, and capacity in children by giving them space to follow their interests while engaging in peer socialization.

- Website: <https://everychildisspecial.org/after-school-care/>
- Phone: 605-721-3770
- Address: 4703 S Canyon Rd, Rapid City, SD 57702
- Cost:
  - **Registration Fee:** \$75 (non-refundable)
  - **No-School Days (for those already enrolled):** \$55/day plus \$10 daily field-trip fee

- **No-School Days (for those *not* enrolled):** \$60/day plus \$10 daily field-trip fee
- **After-School Care:** \$115/week

### **Impact Kidz Academy-After-school Enrichment / School-Age Program**

This program is for children in kindergarten through 5th grade. It offers a dynamic after-school enrichment environment with activities that supplement regular schooling. The offerings include homework help, age-appropriate group activities, snacks, and planned enrichment and creative play.

- **Website:** <https://www.impactkidzacademy.com/after-school.php>
- **Phone:** (605) 593-0055
- **Address:** 625 N. Creek Drive, Rapid City, SD 57703
- **Cost:** Unknown

### **Candyland Child Development Center — School Age / After-School Program (Box Elder, SD)**

Candyland's School Age Program is for children 4-14 years old, and this program intends to help students grow socially, academically, and personally in a supportive, structured environment. Students participate in before and after-school care, and they engage in activities that focus on and teach foundational skills, such as literacy, math, social studies, and science, and creative arts, health, and general social development. This program also provides opportunities for children to engage in extracurricular activities, such as theater, dance, soccer, fitness, and computers/technology. Costs may be associated with some of these activities. The environment is designed to be positive and fun and encourages responsibility and healthy peer interaction.

**Note:** *During Ellsworth Air Force Base Exercises, if enough children will be impacted, Candyland will make attempts to operate at times that will accommodate impacted parents.*

- Website: <https://www.candylandchildcare.com>
- Phone: (605) 791-1232
- Address: 471 Constitution Blvd, Box Elder, SD 57719

- Cost / Rates
  - **Before and After-school:** \$100/week
  - **Drop-in:** \$42/day

## **Additional Resources**

### **MOMS Club of Rapid City, SD**

This is a local group website that lists community events and offers ideas of things to do with children in Rapid City, such as fun and safe play areas.

#### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://momsclubrapidcity.com/>

### **Rapid City SD USA**

This community website lists information about Rapid City including information on public pools and parks and the summer concert series.

#### **Contact Information**

- Website: <https://www.rcgov.org/>
- Phone: 605-394-9300
- Address: 300 6th Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

## Additional Assistance

The TA specialists at the Clearinghouse are happy to assist you. We provide support to professionals as they examine and make informed decisions about which programs fit specific situations and are worth the investment. Whether it is connecting you with the resources and tools to conduct a needs assessment in your community, suggesting the best evidence-based program or practice for your situation, or developing an evaluation plan, our team of experts is a call or email away.

Please visit our website at [www.militaryfamilies.psu.edu](http://www.militaryfamilies.psu.edu) or call 1-877-382-9185 to speak with a TA specialist.

## Suggested Citation

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