



## ABC Child Care & Quality Rating South Carolina



Exciting news for Coastal Academy – North Charleston families! We're thrilled to announce our participation in the ABC Child Care Program, effective January 2024. This program, run by the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS), assists eligible families with affording quality childcare for their children.

### **Who qualifies for the ABC Child Care Program at Coastal Academy?**

Program Criteria (as of January 2024):

- Have a child or children between birth and 12 years of age.
- Work at least 15 hours per week, attend school, or be engaged in a training program.
- Maintain a gross income at or below 85% of the state median income level. For a family of four, this threshold would be up to \$76,272 annually.

For additional information on eligibility please visit <https://abcquality.org/families/>

### **How does the program work?**

The ABC program helps cover a portion of your child care costs for children up to 12 years old. The amount of financial assistance depends on your child's age, the needed childcare hours, and the chosen care provider. If there are any remaining costs, you may be responsible for a co-payment based on your family's income and size.

### **Why choose Coastal Academy for your early childhood education needs?**

- Nurturing and Stimulating Environment: We provide a safe and secure space where your child can learn, grow, and thrive.
- Experienced and Qualified Teachers: Our dedicated educators are passionate about early childhood development and create engaging learning experiences.
- Age-Appropriate Curriculum and Activities: We offer a variety of activities tailored to your child's age group, fostering their cognitive, social, and emotional development.

### **Are there any other fees I will have to pay?**

While the ABC program covers a portion of your childcare costs, some additional fees may apply depending on the chosen provider and your child's participation in specific activities. These might include:

- Extracurricular Activities: From time to time we may offer optional enrichment programs such as music lessons, sports, or field trips, which may incur additional charges.
- Late Pick-Up Fees: Most providers charge fees to late pickup due to staff overtime and encourage smooth scheduling.

### **How can I apply for the ABC program?**

There are two ways to apply for the ABC Child Care program:

1. Visit your local DSS office or view more information online: <https://www.scchildcare.org/programs/child-care-scholarship-program/>
2. Child Care Operations Center
  - a. Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Closed on State Holidays
  - b. Client Number: (800) 47 ,6-0199
  - c. Provider Number: (800) 262-4416
  - d. Complaint Line: (800) 763-2223
3. Mailing Address: Child Care Scholarship Program P.O. Box 100160 Columbia, SC 29202-3160
4. If you have child care scholarship or eligibility questions, please email [scchildcare@dss.sc.gov](mailto:scchildcare@dss.sc.gov) for assistance.

Please note: The program has limited openings, so applying early is recommended. If openings are unavailable, you can request to be placed on a waiting list.

### **Ready to learn more?**

Contact Coastal Academy today to see if your family qualifies for the ABC Child Care Program and schedule a tour of our facility. We're confident that Coastal Academy is the perfect choice for your child!