

The West Haven Community House

The difference between School Age Child Care and School

School Age Child Care Program looks different from school -- **AND IT SHOULD!**

The **environment** is different, the **program** is different, and the **relationship** between children and adults is different.

School	School Age Child Care Program
Has a relative fixed environment	➤ Has a flexible, modular environment arranged in activity areas
Children spend most of their time in same-age groups	➤ Children are often in multi-age groups
Focus on formal instruction	➤ Focus on self-guided exploration and activities
Focus on academic skill acquisition	➤ Focus on all areas of development including practice and application of academic skills
Activity choices are limited	➤ A wide range of activity choices are presented
Adults determine most activities	➤ Children choose most of their own activities and experiences
Adults take on teaching roles	➤ Adults take on facilitative roles
Schedule is fixed across the day	➤ Schedule is flexible and subject to modification by children as well as adults