

# THE HEART BEHIND GREAT OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME

Across the country, districts are working to deliver out-of-school time programs that enrich students' days and support families. But the real difference between "good enough" and transformative comes down to one thing: the people leading the work.

At Right At School, we believe high-quality out-of-school time programs start with heart. Every day, we create environments where students feel seen, families feel supported, and schools feel proud to partner with us.



## We partner with

# 195+ DISTRICTS SERVING 60,000+ STUDENTS AT 1,000 SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE.

## AND OUR RESULTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES:

9 of 10

families plan to
re-enroll their child in
a RAS program

95%

of students report feeling safe and joyful

9 of 10

parents say RAS delivers strong family engagement and support

100%

of programs **align with**district values and
family needs





But numbers only tell part of the story. The real impact shows up in the voices of families who've experienced it firsthand. Families who see every day how the right people can turn out-of-school time into something far greater.

Every partnership, every school, and every family looks a little different, but the feeling of connection is always the same. **These stories show what happens when out-of-school time works exactly as it should:** when programs extend a school's mission, strengthen families' trust, and help students thrive in every part of their day.

## HELPING TROY SHINE ON AND

#### **OFF THE STAGE**

For Keli Hurley, peace of mind comes from knowing her son Troy is not only safe after school, but thriving. At Right At School, Troy is surrounded by amazing educators and close friends that make him excited to show up each day. What started as a practical solution for aftercare quickly became something more: a supportive, reliable community that helps Troy grow and gives Keli the comfort of knowing he's in the best possible hands.

They joined the RAS community last year at Lower Merion in Pennsylvania, and the decision to sign up was an easy one. The program was being led by the same teachers Keli and Troy already knew and loved. That familiarity made the transition seamless, but it was the consistent dedication of the staff that made RAS so special.

Every day, Troy and his favorite RAS educators sit down to work on his homework, which Keli really appreciates as a busy mom. She said their support goes far beyond what she expected from a typical aftercare program. Miss A and Miss E not only help Troy stay focused on his assignments, but they also encourage him to push himself. They keep Keli updated with Troy's progress and overall wellbeing.



The RAS staff at Lower Merion is actively involved, not just during program hours, but in the broader community. They attend school events, make sure kids can participate regardless of pickup schedules, and come prepared every day with new activities, snacks, and games. One of the best examples of their commitment was the end-of-year Variety Show, where the students performed unique acts for one another and their families.



Although Troy is usually shy, RAS staff encouraged him and his friends to come up with a dance, one they were practicing for weeks. From the audience, Keli noticed the positive impact the staff were having on the kids. "You could see the teachers in the background doing the dance to help [the younger kids]," she said. She watched with pride as Troy and his friends danced on the stage with confidence. They were all genuinely having a blast. For Keli, the variety show was more than just a fun performance, it was proof that RAS was the right choice for her child.

Knowing that Troy is not just cared for, but truly enjoying RAS, has made all the difference for Keli. She is confident that "[He's] being well taken care of while I'm at work," she said. She no longer has to worry about her son's safety or wellbeing when she's not around. She completely trusts the RAS staff — especially Miss A and Miss E — and appreciates the open communication she shares with them. Most of all, she knows that Troy is happy, safe, and confident in an environment where he's free to grow and just be himself.



## TURNING THE THOMAS FAMILY'S WORRY INTO WONDER

Right At School brought stability when they needed it most—a creative, supportive space where Olivia could continue to grow and where Kristina could breathe a little easier.

Like many parents, Kristina Thomas struggled with the guilt that can come with relying on afterschool programs. She worried about the long hours and whether her daughter would truly enjoy the experience. But once she saw how much Olivia was thriving at Right At School, making friends, building confidence, and genuinely looking forward to each day's activities, she realized the stability and extra help was actually a really good thing for their family.

Kristina never imagined she'd need afterschool care for her daughter. She always planned to be there when her seven-year-old's school day ended at Carter Elementary, part of the Desert Sands Unified School District in California, because that was what she had growing up. "It's a really long day for them," she said. "I wasn't into that."

But when life shifted unexpectedly, so did her plans.

After a major change in her family, Kristina's work schedule became more demanding. She was suddenly juggling more responsibilities than ever, while doing her best to stay present for Olivia. But with the school day ending hours before Kristina was let off work, she faced a tough dilemma. "I can't leave my job that early," Kristina explained

After receiving an email about Right At School, she hesitantly decided to give it a try. The hours lined up perfectly with her work schedule, and she had no better options. "Being able to pick her up at 6 was truly amazing," she said.



From the very beginning, her fears were eased. Olivia started spending her afternoons playing with kinetic sand, crafting puppets out of popsicle sticks, and creating handmade bouquets of paper roses.



RAS quickly became more than just a place to go after school. Olivia grew close with two of the teachers, found joy in daily projects, and became friends with some older kids, which gave her a newfound confidence boost. Now when Kristina picked her up early, Olivia wanted to stay with her friends at RAS. Because of all the people Olivia met at RAS, Kristina said that she saw "a big difference in her social skills."

For Kristina, her daughter's positive reaction was extremely reassuring. "I could work and not feel guilt or anything about leaving my daughter at school for such a long day," she said. Knowing Olivia was in a place where she was not only safe but genuinely happy made all the difference for her. Kristina was finally able to work a full day without worrying about Olivia's wellbeing.

The academic support was just the cherry on top. With homework help built into the program, their evenings became more relaxed. Having the time to help complete homework—and having it done correctly—was a game changer. "I noticed a lot of improvement in her overall workability," Kristing shared.

Right At School brought stability when they needed it most a creative, supportive space where Olivia could continue to grow and where Kristina could breathe a little easier.

"This program has been huge for me and for Olivia," she said. "I couldn't have better things to say about it."





## MISS EBONY HELPS CULLEN AND CARSYN FEEL RIGHT AT HOME

Melissa Camp never expected a before-school program to become a second home for her children.

But from the moment they met Miss Ebony, the leader at Right At School in Mokena, Illinois, everything changed. What started as a practical solution for two working parents quickly became a source of emotional support, growth, and stability that went way beyond what was expected.

Melissa and her husband, both teachers, leave their house every morning at 6:45 a.m., almost two hours before their kids' school day begins. They were looking for care that not only covered the early hours, but more importantly, felt safe, warm, and supportive for their children Cullen and Carsyn.

They enrolled Cullen and Carsyn at RAS in Mokena Elementary hoping it would solve the logistical problem. Melissa's husband handled the morning drop-offs, so he was the first to meet Miss





Ebony. From the start, he noticed how genuinely kind and welcoming she was every morning. She greeted the children with a big smile and treated them like her own.

It wasn't until months later that Melissa finally met the program manager in person, but it felt like "she had known her for 20 years." What stood out wasn't just Miss Ebony's kindness—it was how deeply she knew her children. Their conversation flowed naturally, centered entirely on Cullen and Carsyn, with a level of insight that made it clear she truly understood them.

The attentiveness meant everything, especially for Cullen. He's complex, emotional, sensitive and not always easily understood by caregivers. But Miss Ebony saw him. She didn't try to brush off his feelings or make him fit a mold. Instead, she took the time to learn what worked for him. "Miss Ebony really just knows how to handle him," Melissa said.

What amazed Melissa even more was how effortlessly Miss Ebony's approach mirrored what they were doing at home. Without ever needing a formal conversation, Miss Ebony picked up on the strategies that worked for Cullen. The result was a sense of consistency that helped him thrive at Mokena Elementary and at home. As a team, Miss Ebony and Cullen's parents nurtured his sense of responsibility and allowed him to really grow and mature.

At the end of the school year, Miss Ebony gave each child a handwritten, personalized letter. Each note included thoughtful reflections about what made them special. She highlighted traits that only their closest family members could point out. Melissa said, "both of the notes were spot on," adding that, "as a mom, I could've written the exact same thing about my kids."

In many ways, Miss Ebony has become like a second mom to her kids, offering the kind of attention and understanding that goes well beyond what Melissa ever expected from a typical before-school program.

"It was the best thing we've ever decided as a family," she said.



## FINDING BELONGING, CONFIDENCE, AND PEACE OF MIND FOR CAMILA AND EMILIANO



For Erika Bracamontes, balancing full-time work while raising two kids was a daily juggling act. Between long commutes, packed schedules, and the constant search for dependable care for eleven-year-old Camila and nine-year-old Emiliano, stress became routine. When she found Right At School in Redondo Beach, California, everything changed. What began as a practical solution for childcare quickly became something much deeper: a place where her children could grow, belong, and truly thrive.

For years, affordable and reliable after-school care felt out of reach. Daycares were expensive, babysitters were inconsistent, and every option came with tradeoffs. When other plans failed, Erika sometimes turned to her children's grandmother, even though the trip took more than an hour and a half each way. Leaving work early risked her job. Not leaving meant worrying about who would care for her kids.

Another single parent shared a life-changing suggestion: try Right At School.

From the very first day, Erika felt the difference. Financial support made it possible, and the Right Club program made it sustainable. She no longer had to race home from work or wonder if her kids were okay. "My kids are well taken care of at Right At School," she said. She saw it in their faces. Camila and Emiliano came home full of stories, excitement, and laughter. "They really love it," Erika said. "The educators are so good to my kids."

More than anything, Erika felt part of a community. Educators formed genuine connections with her children, encouraged their individuality, and kept her informed every step of the way. For the first time, she could focus on work knowing her kids were not just safe but thriving. On the days she finished early, her children often asked to stay longer.

The transformation in her daughter was especially powerful. Once shy and reserved, Camila began to blossom, speaking up, making friends, and joining group activities. What touched Erika most was seeing her daughter embrace her culture in new ways. For years, Camila hesitated to speak Spanish, shy about standing out. At Right At School, surrounded by friends who spoke it proudly, she began practicing and even helping translate for others.

"She's letting me know that she's happy to be who she is," Erika said. "That means everything to me."

"I am blessed to have this program in our lives," she said. "It's made all the difference."

# A Parent's Story: HOW RIGHT CLUB HELPED MIA SHINE

For the Moore family, after school once felt like a daily scramble. Coordinating pick-ups, long drives, and unfamiliar programs left everyone stressed. When their daughter Mia joined Right At School's Right Club at Sherwood Elementary in Pulaski County, Arkansas, everything changed. What began as a simpler routine became something much bigger: stability, confidence, and the space for Mia to shine in her own way.

Before Right Club, afternoons were complicated. When the bell rang at Sherwood, Mia climbed into a van for a long ride across Pulaski County to the local recreation center. The care there was fine, but it never felt like her space. She didn't know the staff, the building was unfamiliar, and she missed being around her classmates and teachers. Her dad summed it up clearly: the whole routine was "a hassle for us."

That hassle disappeared the day Mia started Right Club at her own school. No more long rides or new faces, just the comfort of her own hallways, classrooms, and friends. Right Club felt like a seamless extension of her school day. As her dad put it, it simply "extended the day from what it was already."

The difference was immediate. Evenings became calmer and more predictable. Pick-ups ran smoothly, and heading straight to gymnastics was easy, with no cross-town shuffle or stress. The change gave her parents peace of mind and gave Mia the consistency she needed to thrive.

What surprised the Moores most was how much Mia grew through the experience. As the youngest of four siblings, she had rarely been the leader of



the group. At Right At School, that changed. She became a helper and a role model, passing out supplies, assisting with snacks, and cheering on her peers. Before long, she had her own group of younger students following her lead, waving goodbye with big smiles each afternoon.



For the Moore family, Right At School became more than a scheduling solution. It became a source of comfort, connection, and pride. What started as a way to simplify their days turned into the spark that helped Mia step forward as a leader, a mentor, and a child who truly shines.



## LET'S BRING HEART TO YOUR DISTRICT



Every school community deserves out—of-school time programs that feel like a true extension of the school day. These should be safe, joyful spaces where students grow, families feel supported, and schools can see the difference.

At Right At School, we take that a step further. We do not just operate within your schools; we become part of them. Our programs fit naturally into each district's culture and community, creating consistency and connection that families can feel every day.

When out-of-school time feels like part of the school, everyone benefits — students, families, and the entire community.

BRING THIS LEVEL OF CONNECTION, TRUST, AND JOY TO YOUR DISTRICT BY PARTNERING WITH RIGHT AT SCHOOL.

Let's Get Started:





