



Child Care Management System Vendor Selection Guide

To help you in choosing the CCMS vendor that best suits your needs, please refer to this guide which provides a list of CCMS features for each vendor. Features appear in light blue followed by a chart, and are grouped into four areas: Platform Overview and General Information, Administrative, Family Engagement and Learning Environment. The charts show which features are fully functional, which features have some functionality and which features are not available on this vendor's platform.

For more in-depth information about each vendor, click the following links to visit their websites:



[Alliance CORE](#)



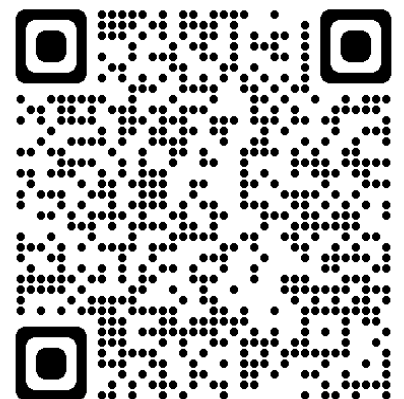
[brightwheel](#)



[Playground](#)

For more information, scan the QR code or visit the [CCMS Program Webpage](#).

If you have any questions or would like assistance in choosing a CCMS vendor, please contact SPARK Learning Lab by calling 1-800-299-1627 or by emailing BusinessSupport@IndianaSPARK.com



Platform Overview and General Information

Customer Review

	Alliance CORE	Brightwheel	Playground
Rating on Capterra (a software/ technology vendor reviewer)	4.5/5 ★ 55 reviews	4.7/5 ★ 3117 reviews	5/5 ★ 47 reviews

Cost/Fees

		Alliance CORE	Brightwheel	Playground
Annual Cost per seat (after 2-year free license ends)	<16 Licensed Seats	\$11.25	\$21.00	\$30.00
	17-50 Licensed Seats	\$8.58	\$22.00	\$25.00
	51-100 Licensed Seats	\$8.00	\$23.00	\$20.00
	101+ Licensed Seats	\$9.60	\$24.00	\$18.00
Payment Processing Fees		1.5-3.0% Credit Card, \$0.25 ACH	2.9% Credit Card, \$0.90 ACH	3% + 30¢ Credit Card, \$1 for ACH

Platform/Accessibility

	Alliance CORE	Brightwheel	Playground
App available	Some Functionality	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Multiple languages	Some Functionality	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Software as a Service	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional

Training and Technical Assistance

	Alliance CORE	Brightwheel	Playground
Phone support	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Online chat support	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Video Tutorials	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Individualized Onboarding	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Online blogs, articles, and user groups	Not Currently Available	Fully Functional	Fully Functional

Administrative

Billing/Collections

	Alliance CORE	Brightwheel	Playground
Billing allocation	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Automated billing	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Automatic adjustment for late fees and manages added program fees	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Flexible billing runs	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Payment History/ Aging reports	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Integrated Electronic Payments	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Annual Tax Statement for Families	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional

CACFP

	Alliance CORE	Brightwheel	Playground
Menu Planning	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Meal Counts	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Generates Reports for Billing	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
CACFP e-submission	Not Currently Available	Some Functionality	Some Functionality

Reporting and Dashboards

	Alliance CORE	Brightwheel	Playground
Customizable reports	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Electronic Filing	Fully Functional	Some Functionality	Some Functionality
Data Dashboard (provider level)	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Data Dashboard (enterprise level)	Some Functionality	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Digital Paperwork/Forms	Some Functionality	Fully Functional	Fully Functional

Staff Management

	Alliance CORE	Brightwheel	Playground
Staff personnel records	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Time clock - hours worked	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Payroll	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional

Accounting

	Alliance CORE	Brightwheel	Playground
Accounts receivable aging	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Revenue tracking can be aligned with chart of accounts	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Export to Accounting Software	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Embedded Accounting Software	Not Currently Available	Some Functionality	Some Functionality
Tracking/ categorizing all time spent on childcare business	Some Functionality	Some Functionality	Fully Functional
Tracking/ categorizing all childcare business expenses	Some Functionality	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Receipt management	Some Functionality	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Create customizable financial dashboard reports	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional



Family Engagement

Child and Family Information

	Alliance CORE	Brightwheel	Playground
Health Information Tracking	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Digital record-keeping tagged by child/family	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional

Parent Communication

	Alliance CORE	Brightwheel	Playground
Parent Portal	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Parent Communication	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional

Marketing and Enrollment

	Alliance CORE	Brightwheel	Playground
Online Enrollment	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Waitlist Management	Some Functionality	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Website development and Search Engine Optimization (SEO)	Some Functionality	Fully Functional	Fully Functional



Learning Environment

Child Attendance

	Alliance CORE	Brightwheel	Playground
Time-stamped Check-in/out	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Staff-child ratio management	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Absences	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Withdrawals (and reasons for withdrawal)	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
"Bulk" attendance records	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional

Scheduling

	Alliance CORE	Brightwheel	Playground
Master and site calendar	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Room/staff schedules	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Variable schedules	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Transportation schedules	Fully Functional	Not Currently Available	Not Currently Available
Predictive enrollment	Not Currently Available	Fully Functional	Fully Functional

Education Tracking

	Alliance CORE	Brightwheel	Playground
Lesson Plan Management	Not Currently Available	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Individual Education Plans (IEPs)	Fully Functional	Not Currently Available	Not Currently Available
Child Assessment/Development Tracking	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Fully Functional
Service Referrals	Fully Functional	Not Currently Available	Not Currently Available
Head Start Performance Standards	Fully Functional	Fully Functional	Not Currently Available





**Office of Early Childhood &
Out-of-School Learning**