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**UNIT:** Decisions That Affect Children

**LESSON:** Selecting a Child Care Provider

**TIME:** 1-2 days

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**COMPETENCIES:**

1. Identify various options available for child care. (Option 2)
  2. Identify qualities of competent child caregivers. (Option 5)
  3. Describe complications of acquiring competent child care. (Option 3)
  4. Evaluate child care facilities for adequacy, safety, and sanitation. (Option 4)
  5. Determine if facilities and/or provider meet state guidelines. (Option 5)
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**OVERVIEW/SUMMARY:**

The dual-career family is becoming the norm rather than the exception in today's society. Choosing a caregiver has become one of the most important decisions that parents will make. When parents feel assured about the care of their children, they are able to concentrate on their job and work responsibilities.

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**MOTIVATOR:**

**HELP ME FIND A CAREGIVER:** Have each member of the class pretend they were just given the car of their dreams (a collage of current sports cars would be useful). However, they just won a month-long vacation to the vacation spot of the world. They must find someone to take care of their car. The owner's manual said it must be driven daily and washed weekly. Who will they select to take care of the car?

Most students would not want anyone to take care of their car. It is a valuable investment and someone else may mistreat it or not give it the tender loving care it deserves. This situation is simple compared to finding a child care provider. A child is much more important than any car you could ever own.

Discuss as a class the complications of acquiring competent child caregivers (many students will have personal experiences from home). Some ideas may include irregular working hours or days, financial difficulties, proximity to child care, availability of child care, children with special needs, etc.

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**LESSON OPTIONS/SUPPLIES:**

**OPTION 1**

**BOOK:** Good Dog, Carl--this book is meant as a spoof to show students how lax some caregivers can be.

**OPTION 2--Competency 1**

**TYPES OF CHILD CARE:** Using the student worksheet, the teacher can present information concerning the types of child care available. As a class, discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each, or divide the class into small groups and assign them a type of child care, with the definition. Have them list advantages and disadvantages and share the information with the class.

**OPTION 3--Competency 3**

**QUALITY CHILD CARE:** Have the class complete the worksheet, "RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES." You may wish to have them do this individually, or you may wish to review this information as a class, using the worksheet as a transparency. In either case, students should be able to explain their reasoning for their answers.

**OPTION 4--Competency 4**

**OBSERVATION:** Have the student visit a child care facility and evaluate the services provided, using the activity form.

**OPTION 5--Competencies 2, 5**

**TEACHER REFERENCE:** The information INDICATORS OF QUALITY CHILD CARE AND UTAH LICENSING RULES are included for your reference. Most classes would not warrant sharing all this information with students.

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**RESOURCES:**

You may wish to inform the students of the "Childcare Connection," a parent resource that coordinates prices, agencies, and licensing needs to individual needs of a parent.