

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

TYPE OF CARE	INFORMATION	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES	<p>Licensed family providers may care for a maximum of six children (including their own) in a private residential setting. Family child care providers often make the decisions a parent would make such as meal planning, discipline methods, and choice of learning activities. Providers are required to meet state standards for a wide range of identified, regulated areas.</p>	<p>Licensed by the state Small group size Home-like atmosphere Extended family feeling May have flexible hours Consistent adult relationship</p>	<p>Licensing mainly monitors environment, not program characteristics Increased exposure to illness May not have planned activities or a wide variety of materials Environment may restrict active play Not all providers can promise long-term care arrangements</p>
CHILD CARE CENTER	<p>Child care centers provide care for seven or more children in a non-residential setting. Center hours and schedules are designed to meet the needs of working parents. Several kinds of centers exist, including infant/toddler programs and day camps. Some centers are designed for infants and toddlers only. Others combine programs for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-aged children. You should expect child care centers to comply with minimum rules set by the Office of Licensing, the Department of Health, and the Fire Department. This setting should provide activities that encourage and support your child's growth and development.</p>	<p>Opportunities for your child to socialize with peers Should offer planned activities with goals and objectives for children Offers hours and schedules that meet needs of working parents Long-term care possibilities (infant through school age) Should have varied materials and experiences available to the children May offer special services (transportation, children's programs, newsletters)</p>	<p>Child must be transported from home Increased exposure to illness with limited or no sick care options Long day in nonhome environment Firmly established hours and schedules Multiple staff relationships and turnover may be disruptive to child</p>

<p>FAMILY GROUP HOMES</p>	<p>Similar to family child care homes; family group homes are operated by two providers who care for 7-12 children in a residential setting. Four of these children may be under two years of age.</p>	<p>Licensing mainly monitors environment, not program characteristics Child must be transported from home Increased exposure to illness May not have planned activities or a wide variety of materials Environment may restrict active play</p>
<p>INHOME CARE</p>	<p>A child care provider comes to your home on a regular basis to care for your children. A live-in or live-out provider resides in your home full or part time, with set hours available to you for child care. Parents can recruit inhome care on their own or contract with a nanny agency to locate a provider who meets the families specifications. Inhome child care is exempt from licensing.</p>	<p>No early morning organizing or transportation Can arrange services to include housekeeping Hours determined by family May work well for families with more than one child Parent has a greater degree of control as "employer" Keeps child in a familiar setting</p>
<p>SHARED CARE</p>	<p>Shared Care is an arrangement in which you share cost for the hiring of an inhome caregiver with another family. The provider often divides time between residents. This type of care is exempt from licensing.</p>	<p>Requires additional organizational activities to meet the needs of two families Legal and financial responsibilities May be difficult to find a provider who would accept this arrangement</p>
<p>CARE BY RELATIVES</p>	<p>Care by relatives is considered to be a type of legally exempt child care. The person caring for the child is a relative of the family.</p>	<p>Not subject to licensing requirements Family disagreements could create problems</p>

<p>BEFORE- AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS</p>	<p>Before- and after-school programs care for children ages 5-14 years of age. They typically operate when school is not in session, including vacations and holidays, and the time prior to the school's opening and closing. Programs can be found in a variety of settings, including child care centers, family child care homes, public schools, and community centers. School-age programs must comply with specific standards that relate to care of older children.</p>	<p>Can provide a safe environment for children while parents are working Can provide quality role models for children to relate to Can enrich areas of child's growth and development Should provide a variety of materials and activities for participants</p>	<p>Long period of time for children to be in structured activities Program characteristics may not match the needs of your child Staff qualifications may not meet the needs of older children</p>
<p>PRESCHOOL</p>	<p>Preschool programs for young children may be found in homes and nonresidential settings. Often preschools provide children with early learning experiences and opportunities to socialize with peers. Preschool programs typically provide care for 2-4 hours per day. They are license exempt and are not monitored by any state agency.</p>	<p>Opportunity to socialize with other children May provide programs that focus on specific developmental areas Sometimes offers special services (field trips, parent lectures, diagnostic evaluations) Low adult-child ratios</p>	<p>Child must be transported from home Classes may be closed during the summer or holidays when you are working Working parent's schedule may not be accommodated</p>
<p>LEGALLY EXEMPT CHILD CARE</p>	<p>Legally exempt child care is care that is exempt from licensing rules and regulations by the state because (1) they care for fewer than four children, (2) they operate for less than four hours a day, and (3) they are operated by a religious or educationally exempt entity.</p>	<p>Can offer child small group settings Caregiver can tailor care to parents' specific needs May have flexible hours May offer special programs and services for children and parents</p>	<p>Not subject to licensing requirements or state minimum standards Have not been inspected by child care licensing specialist Parent is solely responsible for monitoring care Access and turnover may be a problem</p>
<p>WORKSITE DAY CARE</p>	<p>Worksite day care centers are sometimes provided by employers for their employees. The center is located near the worksite.</p>	<p>Children close to parents and some lunch times can be spent together Licensed by the state No additional travel time is required Hours and schedules meet parent's needs</p>	<p>Increased exposure to illness Nonhome environment Multiple staff relationships and turnover may be disruptive to the child</p>