



# CHILD CARE ANSWERS

## Child Care Resource & Referral Agency

Follow us:   



Monday - Friday | 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

317.636.5727 | 800.272.2937

## How we help families like yours

- Individualized referrals to family child care homes, centers, ministries, preschools, before/after school & summer programs
- Information on Indiana child care laws and regulations
- Enhanced services for families with children who have special needs, infants/toddlers and military families
- Education on choosing a quality program

Proudly serving the counties of:



Hamilton  
Hendricks  
Marion

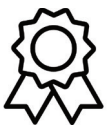
## What to look for in a quality child care program



**SMALL GROUP SIZES & RATIOS.** These factors can affect the quality of care for children in relation to safety, attention given and daily adult interactions.



**HEALTH & SAFETY.** Programs should consistently practice standards such as frequently washing hands, disinfecting diaper changing stations, cleaning toys and properly storing cleaning supplies and other poisonous materials.



**QUALITY RATING & ACCREDITATION.** Programs participating in Paths to QUALITY™ meet specific quality standards within four different levels and may receive coaching from our staff. Accredited programs meet the highest standards of care.



**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT.** Programs should ensure you are informed about your child's development and engaged fully as members of the program community. Look for open-door policies and other policies encouraging parent involvement.



**CAREGIVER EDUCATION & DEDICATION.** Look for longevity of teaching staff, plus teachers' education and continuing professional development levels.



**INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS.** These programs include children with and without disabilities in the same routines and play activities, recognizing each child's strengths and needs.

## Other factors to consider when choosing a program

High-quality child care providers can come in many shapes and sizes. Think about what type of care will best fit your needs and the needs of your child. Consider these characteristics:



**COST OF CARE.** It shouldn't be the only factor to consider, but cost of care can be an important input in your decision. See our website for options to help you pay for care.



**CHILD'S AGE.** Some providers may only care for preschoolers, while others may serve infants through school-aged children. Needs are different for each stage of development.

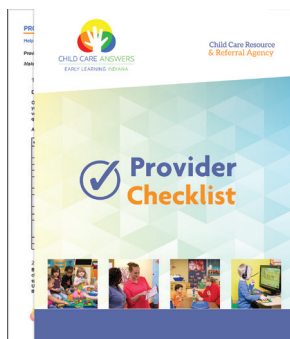


**TYPE OF CARE.** Providers can serve children in a number of environments, from large centers in a commercial setting to small groups in a provider's home. Your child's personality and your personal preference may lead you to one type over another. Be aware that licensing requirements are different for each type of care.

## What's next?

**START WITH A LIST OF PROVIDERS.** Visit our website to learn how to get a customized list of potential programs, based on your needs.

**CONTACT AND VISIT TOP PROVIDERS.** Call providers on your list to understand specifics such as openings, cost, or hours. Check inspection reports, and visit programs with whom you feel comfortable, taking note of the environment and child-staff interactions. Check references from other families before making a final decision. Visit our website for a full Provider Checklist that will help you research and know which questions to ask.



*Child Care Answers is an objective information service and does not recommend or endorse any particular child care settings. We support parental choice. You have the sole responsibility*

### Let us help!

Scan the code below or go to [childcareanswers.com/familyform](http://childcareanswers.com/familyform) to:

- Get a customized list of potential child care programs
- Request support for your child
- Sign up for workshops
- Join our mailing list



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