

Child Care Resource & Referral Family Services

Helping families find quality child care and support



Indiana's five local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies provide families with support and resources to ensure Hoosier families and children have the care and information they need.

Connect with your local agency to access the following services:



Customized Referrals

Custom list of child care programs to meet each individual family's unique needs



Education

Education on choosing a quality program, including family child care homes, centers, ministries, preschools, before/after school or summer programs



Workshops

Family workshops on popular topics



Information

Information on Indiana child care laws and regulations



Tips

Other tips and resources

What to Look for in a Quality Child Care Program

Choosing a quality early care and education program to meet your family's needs is one of the most important decisions you'll make. We can help by providing you with a list of programs to consider. When choosing a program, here are some things to look for:



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.



Cost of Care

It shouldn't be the only factor to consider, but cost of care can be important in your decision. There are several financial assistance options available to Indiana families as well, including CCDF vouchers, On My Way Pre-K and Title XX.



Small Group Sizes and Ratios

These factors can affect the quality of care for children in relation to safety, attention given and daily adult interactions.



Health and Safety

Programs should consistently practice health and safety guidelines such as handwashing, disinfecting diaper changing stations, cleaning toys and properly storing cleaning supplies and other poisonous materials.



Quality Ratings and Accreditation

Programs participating in Paths to QUALITY™ meet specific quality standards within four different levels. Accredited programs meet the highest standards of care.



Family Engagement

Programs should communicate with you about your child's day and their development. Look for open-door policies and other policies encouraging parent involvement.



Caregiver Education and 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.