

CHILD CARE OPTIONS

CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL

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Choosing QUALITY child care is one of the MOST important decisions you will ever make!

4 STEPS TO CHOOSING QUALITY CHILD CARE

Step 1: Think About Your Child Care Options

- When considering your options, make sure you take into consideration how well the provider or program fit your child's needs, your family's schedule, location and language.

TrustLine/License-Exempt Child Care

- ◆ Providers include relatives (grandparents, aunts, uncles), other relatives, friends & neighbors.
- ◆ Other family, friends and neighbors must be fingerprinted.
- ◆ Care is provided in the provider's home.
- ◆ No licensing requirements.

Child Care Center

- ◆ Facilities that provide care for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and/or school-age children.
- ◆ Care is provided in non-home facilities such as churches, schools and/or licensed buildings.
- ◆ Group sizes are large allowing for children to have rich social and academic experiences.
- ◆ Primary caregivers are required to have (or be in the process of completing) 12 units of Early Childhood Education.
- ◆ Centers are licensed and are regulated by the state.
- ◆ Private and subsidized centers, such as Head Start and State Preschool

Licensed Family Child Care Home (FCCH)

- ◆ Providers are in a home setting for children of mixed ages.
- ◆ Large – cares for up to 14 children and requires an assistant.
- ◆ Capacity of 14 children with no more than 3 infants, when at least 2 children are 6 years of age or older.
- ◆ Small – cares for up to 8 children.
- ◆ As assistant is required when more than 8 children are present.
- ◆ Group sizes are smaller allowing for individualized care.
- ◆ Staff are CPR/First Aid and Health and Safety certified.
- ◆ Often are able to provide a flexible schedule including, evening, weekend or overnight care.
- ◆ FCCH's are licensed and are regulated by the state.

Step 2: Begin Your Search

- Call Child Care Resource & Referral at (209) 238-6400 or search online at findchildcares Stanislaus.org
- Child Care Resource & Referral can give you a list of licensed child care facilities.
- Obtain information on the elements of QUALITY child care.

Step 3: Visit, Observe & Ask Questions

- Visit the child care facilities you are considering while other children are present.
- Does the provider have special training in working with children?
- Is the facility clean and safe?

Step 4: Make a Choice & Stay Involved

- Watch carefully and visit unannounced.
- Have regular parent-provider meetings.
- Is your child happy and are they learning?
- If you are not comfortable with your choice, is it ok to change?