



Choices

WHAT ARE MY CHOICES?

Child Care Centers and Preschools

What is it?

Care is provided in a setting similar to school where there may be many classrooms, and children are usually grouped by age. Child Care Centers and Preschools are regulated by the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care.

Staff Training Requirements

- The lead teacher and Director must have a combination of work experience and college course work
- First Aid, CPR, medication administration training and universal precautions
- Additional minimum of 9 hours per year of training for all staff
- Screening for criminal and child abuse background

Pros

- Last minute closures due to provider illness is unlikely
- Frequently offers a child development or preschool curriculum
- Facility is inspected for health, safety, and fire code compliance

Cons

- High turnover of staff is common
- Some children may not adapt well to large group settings
- Usually does not have flexible hours

Family Home Child Care

What is it?

Your child is cared for in a home (not a relative's) that has been licensed by the state to provide child care. Family Home Child Care is regulated by the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care, and must meet different licensing requirements depending on type of facility.

Staff Training Requirements

- Department of Human Services approved training to obtain a license, with more training required to care for infants and toddlers
- First Aid, CPR, medication administration training and universal precautions
- Additional minimum of 9 hours per year of training
- Screening for criminal and child abuse background

Pros

- Allows you to choose the individual who will care for your child
- Smaller group of children in a home-like environment
- May offer flexible hours
- May include a child development or preschool curriculum

Cons

- When individual is sick or on vacation, other plans for care will need to be made
- A single adult is usually alone with a group of children



Choices

WHAT ARE MY CHOICES?

In-Home Care

What is it?

Sometimes called “nanny care”. You hire an individual to work in your home to take care of your child, setting the hours, responsibilities, and compensation for the job. In-Home Care is not regulated in Colorado.

Staff Training Requirements

- Determined by nanny agencies or parents / no statewide standard

Pros

- Convenient and may offer flexible hours
- Relationship can be fostered between nanny and child
- Child remains in a home environment and is able to build a good relationship with one person

Cons

- Expensive; usually costs \$250 - \$450 per week per child
- Fewer opportunities for children to socialize
- You are responsible for background checks, social security, and income

Relative Care

What is it?

An agreement with a family member to provide care in their home or yours. Relative Care is not regulated in Colorado, however a relative who receives reimbursement for child care from some counties may need to meet local requirements, and all must limit child enrollment to a single family.

Staff Training Requirements

- No state requirements

2

Pros

- Established caring relationship between child, parents, and provider
- Flexible hours and fees
- One-to-one care

Cons

- Child development resources may not be available or adequate
- You will need to agree on health and safety issues
- The provider’s age, health, or available time may limit interactions with child

School Age Child Care

What is it?

Care for school-age children, before and after school, on holidays, and during the summer, may be offered by family home and child care centers, and schools. School Age Child Care is regulated by the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care.

Staff Training Requirements

- Director must have a combination of work experience and college course work
- First Aid, CPR, and medication admin. training and universal precautions
- Screening for criminal and child abuse background

Pros

- May be located in the school your child attends
- Many programs will transport your child to and from school
- May offer field trips, or assistance with the child’s homework

Cons

- Children are usually of different ages and have very different interests which may not be met

To Find Child Care in Colorado dial: **1-877-338-CARE** Today!



QUALITY LICENSING INFORMATION

LICENSING INFORMATION

The state of Colorado licenses child care facilities to reduce risks and make sure each facility is complying with basic health and safety standards.

This license does not guarantee quality but does make sure the provider has met specific requirements, including staff training and background checks.

All licensed child care programs must make the following information available at your request:

Current License (3 types)

- **Permanent:** most common; on-going license
- **Provisional:** issued to new facilities if a minor licensing issue exists
- **Probationary:** Issued when a serious compliance issue exists that could compromise a child's health or safety

Last inspection date and findings

- Those facilities at a higher risk and needing the most attention may be visited every six months or more, while those with a history of complying with the set standards may be visited only once every three years.

The maximum number of children assigned to each room or home

The adult-to-child ratio for each room or home

Provider Files

To make an informed decision, you are encouraged to obtain information from the state Division of Child Care or ask your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency for assistance in obtaining and interpreting provider files.

You can review these documents in person, by email, fax, or regular mail.

To review in person call the Division of Child Care at least 72 hours in advance to make an appointment.

To review by email, fax, or mail, you will need to have the name of the program, address, phone number, or license number, and you will be required to provide your name and phone number.

To obtain provider files contact:

**Division of Child Care
Colorado Department of
Human Services**

**1575 Sherman Street, 1st Floor
Denver, CO 80203**

**Phone: 303.866.5958
or 1.800.799.5876**