

Child Care Resource and Referral Fact Sheet

Florida Child Care Resource and Referral Services

If you are a parent with questions about child care in Florida, the state's Child Care Resource and Referral Network has answers. The service is free for any family living in or preparing to move to Florida.



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Overview

To help you identify quality child care and early education programs, the service provides

- A customized list of child care providers based on your family's specific child care needs.
- Unbiased information from trained resource and referral specialists about local child care options.
- Information about benefits and characteristics of quality child care and early learning programs for your children.
- Financial assistance strategies and referrals to other community resources and programs.

State Program

The state resource and referral office operates a toll-free early learning call center for families and providers with information and access to all early learning programs in Florida and

- Provides oversight, training and technical assistance to early learning coalitions for local referral services.
- Develops educational materials and other resources for early learning coalitions, families and child care providers.
- Works with federal, state and local entities to provide emergency services during and after natural disasters.

Parent Resources

To find out more, contact your **early learning coalition**, visit www.floridaearlylearning.com or call the Office of Early Learning toll-free at 866-357-3239.



Local Program

Early learning coalitions provide resource and referral services for families and child care providers in their local areas. The program

- Is a *front door* to all child care, early learning programs or community resources available to families in the area.
- Maintains a database of all legally operating providers.
- Provides assistance to those applying for school readiness or voluntary prekindergarten programs or to families with children who have disabilities or special health care needs.
- Offers start-up and on-going training and technical assistance for providers.

For Providers

- Child care business owners have an opportunity to be listed in a statewide database of more than 15,000 providers for potential referrals.
- New child care providers receive free start-up information and access to resources to promote quality early childhood education.
- Specialists offer free professional development and technical assistance opportunities to child care providers.