

ABOUT SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE

◆ There is limited funding for subsidized child care vouchers where families can choose a child care provider, and the voucher moves with the child if the family changes providers.

◆ If you receive a child care voucher, your preschooler may be eligible to attend subsidized or private preschool AND be cared for by your family, friend or neighbor before and/or after preschool.

◆ Head Start is federally funded and family income must be below federal poverty guidelines to be eligible.

◆ State Preschools are funded by the California Department of Education and income eligibility is higher than for Head Start.

◆ You can call 4Cs for more information!

CHILD CARE CHOICES

CALL 4CS FOR A LIST OF PROVIDERS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

	Licensed Child Care Center	Licensed Family Child Care	Unlicensed Care
Types	<p><u>Subsidized:</u> (Head Start or State Subsidized) Must qualify based on regulations; mostly serve low-income families.</p> <p><u>Private:</u> Enrollment not based on government regulated criteria. Can be secular or faith-based.</p>	<p><u>Small:</u> licensed for up to 8 children.</p> <p><u>Large:</u> licensed for up to 14 children</p>	<p>Family, friend or neighbor (FFN), Some school-age centers on campus, co-ops, and drop-in centers.</p> <p>Summer camps.</p>
Staff Qualifications	College level courses, background clearance.	Background clearance. No education requirements.	No background clearance required unless reimbursed by a government subsidy.
Health & Safety	Licensing Inspections. Staff CPR/First Aid & Health & Safety certified. Building, Fire, and Zoning Codes.	Licensing Inspections. Staff CPR/First Aid & Health & Safety certified. Building, Fire, and Zoning Codes for large family child care.	No requirements.
Adult to Children Ratios	<p><u>Subsidized:</u> One adult to: 3 infants, 4 toddlers, 8 preschoolers, or 14 school-age children.</p> <p><u>Private:</u> One adult to: 4 infants, 12 preschoolers, or 14 school-age.</p> <p><i>Infant: 0-18mos, Toddler: 18mos-3yrs, Preschool: 3-5 yrs, School-age: 5-12 yrs.</i></p>	<p><u>Small:</u> One adult with up to 6 children plus 2 school-age; never more than 4 infants. *</p> <p><u>Large:</u> Two adults with up to 12 children plus 2 school-age; never more than 4 infants. *</p> <p><i>*One less infant when more than 4 children present. Two less infants when more than 6 children present.</i></p>	<p>No requirements.</p> <p>FFNs may only provide care for one family's children at a time, in addition to their own family.</p>
Environment	School-like, often multiple classrooms separated by age group. Playground must meet licensing regulations for age-appropriate equipment and both inside and outside spaces must meet square footage requirements for Community Care Licensing.	Family-style program in provider's home. Small group of children of various ages.	Varies.
Hours	<p><u>Subsidized:</u> Part-day preschool programs are 3 or 4 hours per day. Generally closed during summer and follow school calendars. Full-day programs open year-round, Mon-Fri, regular business hours.</p> <p><u>Private:</u> Varies. Generally open Mon-Fri, regular business hours.</p>	Varies, but mostly open regular business hours and some on nights and weekends. Some flexible with rotating schedules.	Varies.
Meals	<p><u>Subsidized:</u> Required to provide healthy meals and snacks.</p> <p><u>Private:</u> May or may not provide meals and snacks. May participate in a food program.</p>	<p>May or may not provide meals and snacks.</p> <p>May participate in a food program.</p>	<p>Varies.</p> <p>May participate in a food program.</p>
Program Quality	<p><u>Subsidized:</u> Most participate in quality initiatives and utilize research-based quality assessments.</p> <p>Required to conduct child observations twice per year, per child, using research-based observation methods.</p> <p><u>Private:</u> Some have access to quality activities and utilize research-based assessments.</p> <p>Some may do observations.</p>	<p>Some participate in quality initiatives, attend workshops, and utilize research-based quality assessments.</p> <p>Some may do observations.</p>	Varies.
Educational Enrichment	Most offer occasional field trips and invite various presenters to their program.	Some offer field trips, but generally more informal than in centers. Few have presenters.	Varies.
School Readiness	Groups of same-age children facilitate age-appropriate activities. Children learn routines, such as circle time, raising hands and approaches to learning.	Varies greatly. Many providers, especially large, have a group of preschool-age children and offer a preschool curriculum. Others have smaller groups of children of varied ages and offer informal social and academic support.	Varies.



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CHOOSING CARE FOR YOUR CHILD

Choosing Child Care is a highly personal and individual experience.

Things to Consider

- ◆ Is your provider certified in CPR/First Aid?
- ◆ Has your provider been screened for criminal background?
- ◆ Is the environment clean and safe?
- ◆ Is your provider knowledgeable about child development?
- ◆ Does your provider have appropriate toys and equipment for your child's age?
- ◆ Does the provider offer a daily routine and appropriate behavior management?
- ◆ Is the environment loving and stimulating for your child?
- ◆ Does the provider communicate with you about your child's development and child care experience?
- ◆ Does the provider support your child to be ready for Kindergarten?

Get to Know Your Child Care Provider

- ◆ *Always visit* the provider before making your choice.
- ◆ Ask the provider for names of 2 or 3 parents for references.
- ◆ Call Community Care Licensing at (844) 538-8766 for information on complaints or violations in connection with the provider.
- ◆ For more information, please see the 4Cs Choosing Child Care brochure and our downloadable list of interview questions to ask child care providers.

ABOUT KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten Readiness means more than learning letters and numbers!

Some Kindergarten Readiness Indicators

Fine Motor Skills

- ☐ Holds a pencil, cuts with scissors

Cognition and Attention:

- ☐ Sits in a circle and pays attention to the teacher for 10-20 minutes
- ☐ Follows 2-3 step instructions
- ☐ Works on tasks in a small group for 5-15 minutes
- ☐ Makes decisions and choices

Social and self-help

- ☐ Communicates needs (e.g. to go to the bathroom)
- ☐ Comfortable being away from parents
- ☐ Plays well with other children the same age
- ☐ Handles personal care, such as going to the bathroom, washing hands, blowing nose, buttoning and zipping clothing

Language and Literacy

- ☐ Recognizes own name in print
- ☐ Knows rhymes, stories, songs
- ☐ Retells main events from a story
- ☐ Holds a book properly

Math

- ☐ Counts to 10
- ☐ Recognizes circle, square, and triangle
- ☐ Sorts & arranges objects from smallest to largest