

Checking Out Your Options

There are pros and cons associated with each type of care. The following provides you with comparisons at a glance:

CHILD CARE CENTER	FAMILY CHILD CARE	IN-HOME
Same ages grouped together	Mixed ages	Most expensive
Larger groups	Small group	Less social contact
Educational programs and planned activities	More spontaneous and individualized	More personal attention
School-like atmosphere	Home-like atmosphere	
Training required	Training required	No training or licensing required
Highest risk of exposure to illness	Less risk of exposure to illness	Little risk of exposure to illness
Most opportunity for public observation and monitoring	Less opportunity for public observation and monitoring	No opportunity for public observation and monitoring

Licensing/registration requires that basic safety and health standards be followed. Quality of care will vary. Some facilities will operate at the minimum level. Many will operate well above it. In addition, licensed centers and family child care providers have the option of becoming accredited, which means that the program has met the highest standards of quality. Keep in mind if you use unlicensed care that should be licensed in your state, you cannot take it as a tax deduction.

As a parent you will have your own standards. Deciding which program is best for your child and family is up to you. It's very important for you to visit the facility, observe and ask questions. Ultimately, listen to your own gut feelings. Are you comfortable leaving your child there? If the answer is not a confident "yes", look elsewhere.

Remember, provider names given through The Family & Workplace Connection are **referrals only, not recommendations**. The decisions about quality and style of care must be made by each individual family.

CONCERNS/COMPLAINTS:

If you **have concerns** about how your child is being treated, first speak with your provider. You can also report any problems to **The Family & Workplace Connection**, and we will inform the appropriate authorities.

If you feel a licensed or registered program is not operating in accordance with state regulations, or if you observe questionable conditions, call licensing officials in your state:

Delaware:

(302) 892-5800 (New Castle County)
(800) 822-2236 (Kent/Sussex Counties)

Pennsylvania:

(215) 560-2807
(800) 346-2929

Maryland:

(410) 273-7745
(800) 343-0955

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

For information on state financial assistance to help you pay for child care, call:

Delaware

New Castle County

(302) 577-3233
19703: (302) 798-4093
19709: (302) 378-5781
19711: (302) 368-6770
19713: (302) 368-6610
19720: (302) 577-3814
19720: (302) 577-4448
19801: (302) 577-3504
19802: (302) 577-3101
19802: (302) 577-3170
19805: (302) 577-3600

Kent County (302) 739-6920

19901: (302) 739-3351
19901: (302) 739-4437
19963: (302) 422-1555
19963: (302) 422-1416

Sussex County (302) 856-5569

19933: (302) 337-8261
19933: (302) 875-2289
19945: (302) 732-9501
19947: (302) 856-5569
19973 (302) 628-2000

Pennsylvania

Chester County:

(610) 344-5880

Delaware County:

(800) 831-3117

Montgomery County:

(215) 278-3707

Bucks County:

(800) 371-2109

Center City Philadelphia:

(215) 271-0433

Northeast Philadelphia:

(215) 333-1560

North Philadelphia:

(215) 228-5502

Maryland

Cecil County:

(410) 996-0500

Caroline County:

(410) 479-5900

Dorchester County:

(410) 228-5100

Kent County:

(410) 778-0820

Queen Anne's County:

(410) 758-5100

Somerset County:

(410) 651-0311

Talbot County:

(410) 822-1617

Wicomico County:

(410) 549-6900

Worcester County:

(410) 632-2705

