



Steps to Choosing Safe & Healthy Child Care

Three key steps to finding quality child care.

1. Look:

Visit the child care programs you are considering. Observe the environment and the health & safety procedures followed by the providers. Notice the number of children that each adult is responsible to supervise.

2. Check:

Are children supervised at all times? Are staff interacting with the children and are positive behavior guidance techniques used? Is the outdoor play area safe? Is there a plan to follow if a child is injured, sick, or lost? Are nutritious foods served?

3. Ask:

Have the adults been trained to care for children? Is there always someone present who has current CPR and first-aid training? Are the adults continuing to receive training on caring for children? Have staff passed criminal history background checks? Has the program been inspected by the licensing agency within the last 12 months? Will you be given a copy of the program's policies?

Parent Resources:

- Download and print Tips to [Choosing a Quality Child Care Center](#) and [Family Child Care Home](#) as guides for questions to ask when looking at child care programs.



Arkansas Child Care Definitions

There are four types of regulated (registered and licensed) programs in Arkansas.

- [Registered Child Care Family Homes](#) – Homes that care for fewer than 5 children. They are regulated by rules under “Registered Child Care Family Homes.”
- [Licensed Homes](#) – Homes that care for 6 to 16 children. They are regulated by the “Minimum Licensing Requirements for Child Care Family Homes.” Health and fire department approvals are required if care is provided to 11 or more children. City zoning approval is required where applicable.
- [Licensed Child Care Centers](#) – Facilities that care for 6 or more children from more than 1 family. They are regulated by “Minimum Licensing Requirements for Child Care Centers.” Programs that operate less than 10 hours a week are exempt. These facilities require health and fire department approval and are subject to city zoning.
- [Out of School Time](#) – These facilities are regulated by the “Minimum Licensing Requirements for Out-of-School-Time Facilities.” These facilities are center based child care programs that care for school age children only.

Arkansas child care providers who serve children whose care is paid for by the [School Readiness Assistance Program](#) (child care assistance to help make child care more affordable for working parents) must participate in the Arkansas [Better Beginnings](#) quality rating and improvement system.

Parent Source: [5 Good Reasons to Choose Better Beginnings High-Quality Child Care Programs](#)