Vaccination policy. Policy for late pick up. iuto the program? How your child will transition dies, habits, or medical needs). cyild (tood preferences, allerphecial circumstances for your

Health, illness and emergency not be provided.

bolicies.

and other times child care will 2chedule of closures, holidays, brovider.

Protessional references for the barents Can you access the tacility as a

other tees. registration tees, field trips, 16es, sick/vacation payments, tees including: deposits, late

 Tuition/payment schedules and want to ask about... Other key questions you'll

Written policies procedures? **IUKNOVER?**

> A low rate of staff communications

Practices in place for parent • INVOIVEMENT?

> Opportunities for parent tion certifications?

αυλ eauly childhood educa-Up-to-date training and/or

to my child? individual attention

The ability to offer ķp!∀

Certification in CPR and First abbroach to care?

A professional attitude and children? ot ssanavisnods

> Patience, warmth, and re-Fxbeueuces

Do they have... care provider? How qualified is the child

and learning materials? Plenty of age-appropriate toys extinguishers?

Smoke detectors and fire cuilds

Kest areas and a bed for each Healthy meals and snacks? atmosphere?

> A bright and pleasant satety?

Cleanliness, comfort, and

 A satistactory statt-to-child environment provide...

Does the child care



CUIIQ UOMS the program for my Are there openings in

> COUVENIENT? Is the location pnqdets

care fit within my Does the cost of the ponts I need it?

cuild care during the Is there availability for

wy needs? arrangement meet Does the child care

you should consider as you are making your child care decision. hon, tamily. Below you'll find a handy check-list of key items that many options, it can be difficult to determine the best solution for Making a decision for the care of your child is a big one. With so



with a list of customized referrals. gations but we will supply you We do not provide recommen-

a solution that works for you. hon, cylla care options, and find ready to help you discover all of of Child Care Consultants are Illinois Action for Children's team

tor your child when you can't be safe and nurturing environment cate broviders that can create a Datapase has thousands of child Children's Child Care Referral child care, Illinois Action for cylld care homes, to in-home From child care centers, to tamily



your needs.

can be challenging to find quality, convenient, and affordable Libere are many Joys of parenting. However, for many parents if

We encourage you to visit providers to select one that best suits

We're Here to Help



Things to Consider When Looking for Child Care

First Steps for Finding Child Care

Step 1. Call: 312.823.1100 or email referrals@actforchildren.org

Step 2. Discuss

Talk to your Child Care Consultant about your needs and preferences. They will help you find an arrangement that works for your family. All information is confidential.

Step 3. Review

Your Child Care Consultant will send you materials, including a personalized list of child care options, child development fact sheets and general guidelines to help you choose the best child care option for your family.

Step 4. Visit

We recommend that you visit several child care programs before you make a final decision, to make sure that you are comfortable with the child care setting and caregiver(s).

The list will contain referrals, not recommendations.

Do You Need Financial Assistance to Pay for Your Child Care?

The Illinois Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) makes it possible for families who qualify to receive financial assistance in paying for child care. Parents must meet the State of Illinois' income and family size quidelines.

Illinois Action for Children can help you determine your CCAP eligibility and complete the application.

Simply give us a call at 312.823.1100 or visit one of our walk-in locations:

Central / West Side

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday (8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

1340 S. Damen 3rd Floor Chicago, IL 60608

North Side / Uptown

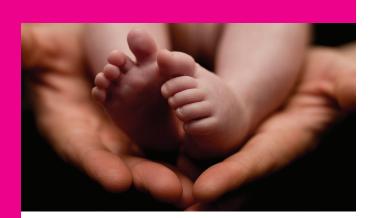
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday -By Appointment Only

4753 N. Broadway 1st Floor Chicago, IL 60640

South Side / Chatham

Monday, Tuesday (8:30 a.m. – 3:00 Thursday (10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.) Friday – By Appointment Only

8741 S. Greenwood Suite 300 Chicago, IL 60619





First Steps

Child Care Options for your Family

Understanding Your Child Care Options

CHILD CARE CENTERS

Child care centers provide care for groups of children. There are two types of child care centers, "licensed" and "license-exempt".

Child Care Centers Offer:

- Daily planned activities
- Opportunities for building social skills
- Staff trained in child development and, CPR and First
- More availability for children over two years old
- Consistent, year-round schedules that do not fluctuate

Child Care Centers May Not Always Offer:

- Flexible hours and days of operation
- The ability to bring your child there when he/she is ill



TYPES OF CHILD CARE CENTERS

| Licensed Child Care Centers: | License-exempt Child Care Centers |
|--|---|
| Meet Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) standards for: Physical space available per child Environmental safety guidelines Staff training Staff to child ratios (the number of staff per child) by age: 6 weeks to 15 months - 4:1 15 months to 2 years - 5:1 2 to 3 years - 8:1 3 to 4 years - 10:1 5 years and up - 20:1 | Care for children three-years- old and older, and are affiliat- ed with: Churches Public Schools Universities Government Agencies |

FAMILY CHILD CARE

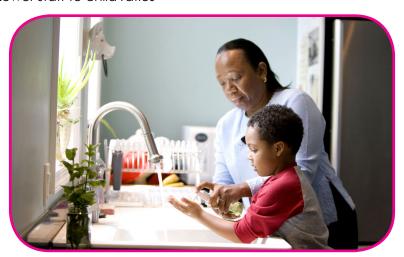
Family child care is offered in the home of the child care provider. There are three types of family child care, "licensed homes", "group homes", and "license-exempt homes".

Family Child Care Care offers:

- A home environment
- Daily planned activities
- Opportunities for flexible schedules
- Siblings cared for together
- Care from a single, consistent caregiver
- Mixed ages of children
- More availability for infant care
- Licensed providers are trained in CPR and First Aid
- Lower staff to child ratios

Family Child Care May Not Always offer:

- Caregivers with a formal education background
- A consistent schedule of care (for example if the provider becomes ill or goes on vacation)
- Admission of children who are sick



TYPES OF FAMILY CHILD CARE

| Licensed homes | Licensed group homes | License-exempt homes |
|---|---|--|
| Typically can care for up to eight children, including their own, or up to twelve children with an assistant. Meet Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) standards for: Physical space available per child Environmental safety guidelines Staff training Staff to child ratios (the number of staff per child) | Typically may care for twelve or more children, including their own, or up to twelve children with the help of a full-time assistant. Meet Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) standards for: Physical space available per child Environmental safety guidelines Staff training Staff to child ratios (the number of staff per child) | Also know as Family Friend & Neighbor care • Provide care for no more than three children, in- cluding the care- givers children, unless the children all live in the same household. |

IN-HOME CHILD CARE

An in-home child care provider cares for your child in your home. This caregiver could be a nanny, a relative, or an au pair. This type of care is not regulated by DCFS licensing standards. As a parent, you are the employer of the caregiver.

In-Home Care Offers:

- Children the comfort and stability of being in their own homes
- Potential for a more flexible arrangement
- Individualized care
- Ongoing care, even if your child is sick
- Potential costs savings for families with several children requiring care
- Control over selecting the individual(s) who will care for your child
- Convenience of not having to take and pick up your child from another location



Call for Your Child Care Consultation

Illinois Action for Children's Child Care Consultants are ready to help you find the child care solution that meets your needs. Call for your FREE child care consultation, today!

Child Care Consultation Hours Monday—Thursday: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Friday: 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

312.823.1100

referrals@actforchildren.org www.actforchildren.org

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