

Steps to Finding Child Care

1. Review your list of child care providers from Child Care Resource & Referral
2. Call providers and interview them over the phone
3. Set up a time for a site visit
4. Call references
5. Call the Office of Child Care for licensing and compliance history 1-800-556-6616 or go online at www.ChildCareInOregon.org

Telephone Interview

Questions to ask:

- Are you regulated by the Office of Child Care?
- How many children are in your child care and what are their ages?
- What hours and days of the week is the child care open? (to see if it fits your schedule)
- Is the child care site closed for vacation or holidays?
- What are the fees for... (Each of your children who need care)?
- Are there late fees if I pick up my child up late?
- What is the basic routine for the children during each day?
- What other adults are working with the children or have access to the children?
- What kind of training or experience do you as the caregiver and/or staff have?
- Can I get a list of references?

A Provider May Ask You

- How did you hear about our program?
- What is your name and phone number?
- What is the age of your child?
- What hours and days do you need care?
- What experiences has your child had in child care? (Occasional babysitter, nanny, family child care, center care)
- Describe your child's temperament.
- Are there any medical conditions or allergies?
- When would you like to visit?
- Do you have any references? (Name and Phone)

Things to Look for and Ask About When Visiting a Child Care Site

(If possible, take your child with you to the site visit.)

General

- Find out why they are a child care provider
- Ask what they like the most about child care
- Ask what they like least about child care
- Ask how long they have been doing child care

Safety

- Look for working smoke detectors
- Look for capped electrical outlets
- Check to see if stairs are gated
- See if the diaper area is clean and sanitized
- Ask what the plan is for fire or emergency situations
- Ask what the policy is for sick children
- If children are transported, ask if the provider has a current driver's license and proof of insurance
- Look to see if there are car seats/seat belts for all children
- Ask what method is in place for identification of children (name tags and a roster) when going on field trips
- Ask if they carry medical emergency release forms during activities off the premises

Miscellaneous

- Ask about the naptime routine
- Ask about the policy for children who do not sleep during naptime
- Ask if your child can bring a comfort item or toys from home
- Ask about bringing extra clothing for messy projects and/or accidents

Reflect after the visit:

Go with your "gut" feeling about the provider.

Did you and your child feel welcome?
How did the provider react to your child and you?
How did the provider interact with the children in his/her care?
How did the children interact with the child care provider?

Will you feel comfortable leaving your child?

Policies

- Ask for a copy of the contract and written policies
- Ask about how much time the children watch television, videos or play computer games
- Ask how the provider handles toileting accidents
- Find out if the provider has a back-up when s/he is sick or on vacation
- Ask about activities for the children
- Ask how the provider disciplines the children
- Ask how children that have aggressive behavior such as hitting or biting are handled
- Ask for a list of references

For In-Home Care

- Look for fireplace and heaters screened off from the children to prevent burns
- See if hazardous and poisonous compounds are in a locked cabinet
- Ask if there are there guns in the home and, if so, where they are kept
- Find out who else lives in the home or frequently visits the home
- Find out if they participate in a USDA Food Program

For Center Care

- Ask what the turnover rate is for personnel and how long the staff in your child's room has been there
- Find out who the primary caregiver is in the room where your child will be. See if you can meet the teacher
- Ask how adults coming into the center are screened
- Ask what the procedure is for picking up your child

Find Your Child Care Fit



Whether you are a parent or child care provider, this chart shows you the basics about child care options in Oregon so you know what questions to ask and can find where you fit best.

Child Care Type	Informal Child Care	License Exempt Recorded Child Care	Regulated Subsidy Provider	Registered Family Child Care	Certified Family Child Care	Certified Child Care Center
What does care look like?	Child care by family, friends and neighbors.	Preschool and school-age programs that operate fewer than four hours per day.	Providers that accept subsidy payments, but are not required to be licensed. Includes family, friends and some programs with limited hours.	Home-based child care program with up to 10 children.	Home-based child care program with up to 16 children.	Center-based child care program with more than 13 children.
Are they regulated?	No.	This means they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> comply with background checks 	This means they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> meet health and safety standards comply with background checks are regularly monitored starting in November 2016 participate in ongoing training 	This means they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> meet higher health, safety and program standards (on-site inspection) comply with background checks are regularly monitored participate in ongoing training 		
Are they eligible to accept subsidy dollars?	No.	No.	These types of care can accept subsidy payments as long as they are listed with Dept. of Human Services.			
Are they licensed?	No.	No. These programs are recorded with the State.	No.	This means they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> keep attendance records have planned educational activities have a guidance and discipline policy have a daily routine/schedule are certified to handle food preparation are trained in first aid and CPR are trained in child abuse and neglect participate in ongoing training on child development, health and safety 		
Are they eligible to apply for quality ratings?	No.	No.	No.	Eligible to apply for a quality rating (3, 4, or 5 stars). This means they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> employ staff who meet training and education qualifications use materials, curricula, and activities that help children learn and grow make it their policy to follow best practices in adult-child interaction 		

Find local child care options: www.findchildcareoregon.org.

Learn about licensing, quality ratings and subsidies by contacting your local Child Care Resource and Referral agency: triwou.org/projects/fcco/sdamap.