

Click to view important information on the Child Care Assistance Program.



Types of Child Care

Families are children's first and most important teachers. Families' involvement in children's learning at home as well as in child care and early learning programs can impact lifelong health and child development. When choosing a child care provider that fits the needs of your child and your family, there are many factors to consider. This page gives you important information on the different types of child care available, including some basic information on how these programs are regulated. For more information on licensing requirements, visit our [Licensing page](#).

You can search for child care in your area and view inspection reports by visiting our [child care search page](#) or by contacting your [local Child Care Resource and Referral \(CCR&R\)](#) agency.

Select a provider type from below to learn more:

Free types of child care that may be available to you:

▶ [Preschool Programs](#)

▶ [Head Start and Early Head Start Programs](#)

Other types of available child care (may accept CCAP*):

Check out this video from the Advocated for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) which explores the differences between family child care and child care centers.

Differences Between Family Child Care and Child Care Centers



▶ [Approved Home Providers](#)

▶ [Family Child Care Providers](#)

▶ [Child Care Centers](#)

▶ [Summer Youth Camps](#)

Other types of care to consider:

▶ [License-Exempt Child Care](#)

Finding Quality Child Care Checklist



Download our printable **Finding Quality Child Care checklist** ([English](#) | [en español](#)) to use when looking for a child care or early learning program.

**If you receive benefits through the [Child Care Assistance Program \(CCAP\)](#), you can use any licensed child care center, registered family child care provider, approved home (in-home and family, friend and neighbor provider), school-based program or summer youth camp that is approved by the state and that accepts state payments.*

If you get help paying for child care through Work First New Jersey – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (WFNJ/TANF), Transitional Child Care (for former WFNJ recipients), Post Adoption Child Care, Child Protective Services (CPS) or Kinship Child Care, you also must use a CCAP-eligible provider.

CCAP-eligible providers must meet Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Family Development (DFD) requirements to qualify for funding and are required to comply with the requirements under the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act. If you would like more information about these federal requirements, visit the [Administration for Children and Families website](#).

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