



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for contacting the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco & Hernando Counties for assistance with your early care and education needs. We service Pasco and Hernando counties, Monday through Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm. Our goal is to assist you in locating a quality child care program that meets your family's needs. Choosing a child care provider is one of the most important decisions that a parent can make. It is important to choose a provider who meets the needs of your child and with whom you feel comfortable. Enclosed are the child care listings that you requested, as well as additional information that may assist you in your child care selection process. Please note that these listings were computer generated using the selection criteria that you provided. Our Resource and Referral database includes all legally operating early care and education providers (those that have met all state and county licensing or registration requirements). In addition, the information in this packet constitutes an unbiased listing for child care services. We do not license, endorse or recommend any particular provider.

Each family's situation is unique; therefore, only you can determine which early care and education provider is right for your family. It is recommended that you make at least one unannounced visit before making your childcare selection. We also recommend you contact the Department of Children and Families licensing office (listed below) to review provider files prior to making your child care choice.

Below are some resources that may be of interest to you:

Provider license files, inspection reports, violation history;

Department of Children and Families- <https://cares.myflfamilies.com/publicsearch/>

or contact (813-337-5847 Pasco County (352)-330-5636 Hernando County

Health & Safety Requirements for Scholl Readiness Child Care Providers

<http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/staewide-initatives/health-safety>

Voluntary Quality Standards (QRIS) for Child Care providers

To learn how providers are evaluated and rated through our Sunshine Stars program, visit [www.phelc.org](http://www.phelc.org) or call (866) 797-9444

Submitting a complaint about a Child Care Provider to the Department of Children and Families Child Care Licensing and Regulation Division

[www.myflfamilies.com](http://www.myflfamilies.com)

Reporting known or suspected child abuse through the Florida Abuse Hotline.

Department of Children and Families 1(800)962-2873 or [www.myflfamilies.com](http://www.myflfamilies.com)

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) and Readiness Rate Information

<https://vpk.fldoe.org>

Resources for children with special needs

Early Steps- [www.earlystepsdirectory.com](http://www.earlystepsdirectory.com) or (800)218-001

Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources Systems – [www.fdlrs.org](http://www.fdlrs.org) or (850) 245-0478

Resources for children's health care

Florida Kid care – <http://www.floridakidcare.com> or (888)540-5437

Programs with a Gold Seal designation have demonstrated a commitment for providing a high-quality program for young children and their families. Providers that have chosen to participate in our Sunshine Stars program will receive a star rating based on the level of quality of their early learning program. If you need additional child care listings, community services/information or would like information about Voluntary Prekindergarten or School Readiness programs, please feel free to contact us at one of our locations. (727)569-1004 New Port Richey, (352)834-0052 Dade City, or (727) 233-8291 Hernando County. You can also visit us our Early Learning Coalition Child Care Resource and Referral website for parents at <http://www.phelc.org>.

Sincerely yours,

Brenda Mayo

Resource & Referral Coordinator

If you are dissatisfied with the child care resource and referral services, you have the right to submit disputes and/or disagreements regarding these services to the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando counties at 1-866-797-9444. For any issues in area of discrimination and/or harassment, the grievance must be filed in writing within one year of the alleged behavior. For issues in the area of disability/accommodations the grievance must be filed within 20 calendar days. For a complete copy of this policy, please contact the Early Learning Coalition. (1-866-797-9444 or [www.phelc.org](http://www.phelc.org))