



Florida Child Care Resource and Referral Program

Overview

If you are a parent with questions about child care in Florida, the state's Child Care Resource and Referral Network has answers. The service is free for any family living in or preparing to move to Florida.

To help you identify quality child care and early education programs,

- The program will develop a customized list of childcare providers based on your family's specific childcare needs.
- Trained resource and referral specialists offer unbiased information about local childcare options.
- You get information about how to recognize quality early learning and understand the benefits for your children.
- You can also get financial assistance strategies and referrals to other community resources and programs.

State Program

The state resource and referral office operates a toll-free early learning call center for families and providers with information and access to all early learning programs in Florida and

- Provides oversight, training and technical assistance to early learning coalitions for local referral services.
- Develops educational materials and other resources for early learning coalitions, families and childcare providers.
- Works with federal, state and local entities to provide emergency services during and after a natural disaster.

Local Program

Early learning coalitions provide resource and referral services for families and childcare providers in their local areas. The local resource and referral program

- Is a "front door" to all child care, early learning programs or community resources available to families in the area.
- Maintains a database of all legally operating providers.
- Provides assistance to those applying for school readiness or voluntary prekindergarten programs or to families with children who have disabilities or special healthcare needs.
- Offers start-up and on-going training and technical assistance for providers.

For Providers

- The Child Care Resource and Referral Program offers childcare business owners an opportunity to be listed for potential referral in the statewide database of nearly 18,000 providers.
- New childcare providers receive free start-up information and access to resources to promote quality early childhood education.
- Specialists offer free professional development and technical assistance opportunities to childcare providers.

Parent Resources

To find out more, contact your **local early learning coalition**, visit www.floridaearlylearning.com or call Florida's Office of Early Learning toll-free at 1-866-357-3239.

