



Youth, Family & Child Care Resource
785 Morse Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94085
(408) 523-8150

PARENTS QUESTIONS ABOUT CHILD CARE

Are you concerned about the welfare of a child at a child care facility?

If it is a life-threatening problem, call 911; otherwise, contact **Community Care Licensing at (408)324-2148**. Community Care Licensing will do an inspection of the facility.

How do I know if my child care provider has a license with the State of California?

Community Care Licensing can tell you if your provider or center is licensed in California. Contact **Community Care Licensing at 2580 N. First Street, Suite 300, San Jose, CA 95131, (408)324-2148** or visit their website: www.cclcd.ca.gov to locate licensed Large Family Child Care Providers or Child Care Centers in your area. Small Child Care Providers are not listed on-line.

What is "high quality" child care?

While each person's definition of "high quality" child care may be slightly different, there are generally accepted best practices within the profession. The following are some additional questions that can also help you to evaluate the quality of a center for your own child:

- 1) Are the children in the child care program happy and comfortable, while engaging in play and other activities? Do you think your child would be happy and comfortable as well?
- 2) Will your child have adequate supervision? Do the adults have training in early childhood development? Do the adults regularly attend conferences or other professional development activities to learn more about children?
- 3) Are there toys and materials available for your child's age group? Do teachers and caregivers understand and respect each child's abilities and interests?
- 4) Does the caregiver/teacher focus on all areas of the child's development (social, emotional, cognitive and physical)? High quality programs help children do much more than learn shapes, numbers and colors. They teach children how to get along with others, to ask lots of questions and to look for answers, and develop their language, thinking and motor skills (drawing, running, etc).
- 5) Do the caregivers or teachers evaluate their program on a regular basis to make it the best it can be?
- 6) Are you welcome to observe, make suggestions, and participate in your child's child care program? Does the staff respect cultural differences?

What is child care accreditation?

Accreditation means that a child care program voluntarily applied for and met the evaluation. Accreditation is granted when the child care provider has met the necessary requirements and modifications of an accrediting agency. For more information on accreditation contact:

The National Association for the Education of Young Children NAEYC
1-800-424-2460
1509 16th St., N.W.

Washington, DC 20036-1426

NAEYC accredits child care centers, preschools, kindergartens and before/after school programs for infants and children ages zero through third grade.

National Association for Family Child Care NAFCC accredits family child care providers.

5202 Pinemont Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84123 Phone: 801-269-9338



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Sunnyvale is home to many licensed family child care homes and child care centers that care for infants, preschoolers and school age children. We obtain our information on licensed family child care homes and centers from the Community Care Licensing Division website at www.cclcd.ca.gov

The Child Care Licensing Program licenses and monitors Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers in an effort to ensure that they provide a safe and healthy environment for children who are in day care.

You must be licensed if you care for children from more than one family and who are not related to you.

You don't need a license if you care for your children (or those of a relative), and children from only one other family.

Family Child Care Homes

A Family Child Care Home must be in the licensee's own home. A Family Child Care Home reflects a home-like environment where non-medical care and supervision is provided for periods of less than 24 hours. There are **Small Family Child Care Homes** and **Large Family Child Care Homes**.

A Small Family Child Care Homes provide care to no more than **8** children. A "small" is required to have a state license but not required to have a Sunnyvale Business License.

A Large Family Child Care Homes provide care to no more than **14** children. A "large" is required to have a state license and is also required to have a Use Permit and Sunnyvale Business License in the City of Sunnyvale.

- Education/experience can vary widely – the only education that the State mandates for family child care providers is First Aid/CPR training. It is important to ask about the provider's education and experience in your interview (*a list of questions is enclosed in this packet to guide you through the interview*).
- All family child care providers are licensed to care for infants, though some may choose not to.

Child Care Centers

A Child Care Center (or Day Care Center) is usually located in a commercial building. Non-medical care and supervision is provided for infant to school age children in a group setting for periods of less than 24 hours.

- Licensed and regulated by the State of California. The State mandates that directors, assistant directors and teachers in child care centers meet minimum educational requirements.
- Not all child care centers are licensed to care for infants (children ages 0-2).

Before deciding on a provider, it is highly recommended that you contact the State's Community Care Licensing Division at (408) 324-2148, and ask for a "file review". They will be able to tell you if the provider has any substantiated complaints on record. You will need the name, address and license number (if available) of the provider. It will take them at least several days to get back to you.