

HELPFUL CONTACTS

Child Care Aware of WA

Find licensed child care providers in your community.

www.childcareawarewa.org
1-800-446-1114

Child Care Check

Find provider licensing history, monitoring reports and more.

www.findchildcarewa.org

Washington Connection

Apply for a child care subsidy.

www.washingtonconnection.org/home
1-844-626-8687

The Washington State Department of Children, Youth & Families

P.O. Box 40970
Olympia, WA 98504-0970
Toll-free: 1-866-482-4325
www.dcyf.wa.gov

If you would like copies of this document in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations (1-800-723-4831 | 360-902-8060, ConstRelations@dcyf.wa.gov).

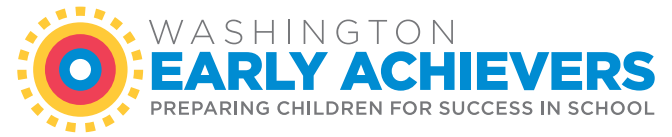
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FINDING QUALITY CHILD CARE

A guide for child care and early learning opportunities in Washington State.



EARLY ACHIEVERS can help you find HIGH-QUALITY CARE



Early Achievers participants are dedicated to quality child care and continuous improvement. They show a commitment to quality so you can feel confident about your child care choice. When choosing child care, remember to look for the logo and ask if the provider is participating in Early Achievers.

Learn more about Early Achievers at www.dcyf.wa.gov/early-achievers.



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

www.dcyf.wa.gov/early-achievers



LICENSED CARE helps ensure your children are SAFE

The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) licenses more than 5,000 child care facilities.

These facilities follow state licensing rules to make sure children are in safe and healthy environments that support child development.

CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES CAN HELP YOU PAY FOR QUALITY CARE

Did you know that DCYF offers assistance to eligible families to help pay for child care? DCYF's Child Care Subsidy Programs pays a portion of the cost of child care at centers, licensed family homes, and family, friend, or neighbor (FFN) providers. Parents may be responsible for a copayment to their provider each month.

Find out if you qualify! Income eligibility has increased and copayments have decreased. If you haven't qualified before, you might qualify now. Apply by phone at 1-844-626-8687 or online at www.washingtonconnection.org/home.

Learn more about subsidies online at <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/getting-help>.

CHILD CARE CHECKLIST

This checklist will help your family choose the right child care.

Will my child thrive here?



- Do they value different cultures, ethnicities, and abilities?
- Do staff encourage creativity and developmentally-appropriate independence?
- Will the same people take care of my child regularly?
- Are children comforted when needed?
- Do staff hold and cuddle infants and toddlers often, including while feeding?
- Will my child have fun here?

What policies will affect my child's interactions with others?



- Do staff set limits that are reasonable, clear, consistent, and developmentally-appropriate?
- Do staff use calm voices and redirect children to other activities if there's a problem?
- What happens when children hit, bite, or bully?
- How does the program engage families?
- Am I encouraged to spend time as a guest for lunch or as a volunteer?
- How will I hear about my child's day?
- Do I feel respected as my child's first and most important teacher?

What will my child experience during the day?



- Are activities planned to help my child learn?
- Are rest times based on the needs of each child?
- Are families' cultures respected in activities and celebrations?
- Will my child have time every day to run, throw, catch, and climb?
- Will developmentally-appropriate books be available in my child's own language?

Is the environment safe and healthy?



- Are there enough staff members to give attention to every child?
- Are there security measures in place to keep strangers out but allow children to exit in an emergency?
- Is the outdoor play area safe?
- Are toys and equipment safe and developmentally-appropriate?
- What is the emergency plan for contacting families?

Remember to ask if they participate in Early Achievers!