

## TYPES OF CHILD CARE *at a glance*

Care Setting	Maximum # of Children	State Certification Required
Relative Care*	3	No
Friend/Neighbor Care	3	Yes, if receiving subsidy payments
Family Child Care Home	6	Yes
Group Child Care Home	12	Yes
Child Care Center	7 (minimum)	Yes

\*Relatives are biologically-related (to child) as an aunt, uncle, sibling, grandmother/father, great-grandmother/father; 18 years+, and do not live in the home. Background clearances are required to receive subsidy payments.

## STAFF-TO-CHILD *ratios*

Age Levels	Staff	Children
Infant (0-12 mos.)	1	4
Young Toddler (12-24 mos.)	1	5
Older Toddler (25-36 mos.)	1	6
Preschool (37 mos.-Entering K)	1	10
Young School-Age (K-3rd gr.)	1	12
Older School-Age (4th gr.-15 yrs.)	1	15

Contact the PA Dept. of Human Services (1-800-222-2117) for more information about child care licensing.

**Note:** In a Family Child Care Home, no more than **2 infants** may be in the provider's care at the same time.

Selecting and monitoring a child care provider is the right and responsibility of the parent or guardian. Providers listed with Child Care Consultants, Inc. are regulated by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. Providers have not been screened, evaluated, or recommended by Child Care Consultants, Inc. or your employer. Neither organization guarantees or endorses the providers. The final decision about your child care arrangements must be made by you, the parent or guardian. Once you have chosen a provider, you should continually monitor the quality of care that your child is receiving from that provider.

## IMPORTANT THINGS *to consider...*



Home providers may have early morning, **2nd & 3rd shift hours.**



Verify the provider's **transportation options** for before/after school care.



Place your child on **waiting lists** as you continue your search for immediate care.



What is their **Keystone STARS** level? The more STARS, the higher quality.



Do they serve healthy meals through the **Child & Adult Care Food Program**?



Consider **back-up care** in the event the provider you choose is sick or closed.

# QUALITY CARE *checklist*

Use this checklist when visiting and interviewing providers.

PROVIDER  
1 2 3

## Child Supervision

- Staff-to-child ratios are maintained (see chart on reverse)
- Children are supervised at all times (indoors/outdoors; awake/sleeping)
- Caregivers are attentive to children's needs
- Children seem happy and engaged

PROVIDER  
1 2 3

## Health & Safety

- Home settings are safe, clean and child-friendly
- Medications are labeled and out of children's reach
- First Aid supplies are maintained
- All caregivers are Pediatric First Aid and CPR certified (ask to see certification cards)
- Meal preparation, bathroom and diapering areas are clean and sanitized
- Toys are clean, safe, age-appropriate and within reach of the children

PROVIDER  
1 2 3

## Program Management & Learning Opportunities

- Participation in Keystone STARS quality improvement program
- Caregivers have experience/education in early childhood development
- Variety of books, blocks, puzzles and toys to prepare children for success in school
- Parent involvement and parent/teacher communication encouraged
- Nutritious meals and snacks are served

## Consider asking about...

Parent references ✕ Holiday schedules ✕ Sick policies ✕ Rates and other fees  
Transportation (school, field trips, etc.) ✕ Staff's participation in ongoing training

*I also want to ask:* \_\_\_\_\_

## TO LEARN MORE *contact us*

Quality child care | Find a provider | Become a provider  
Keystone STARS | Child & Adult Care Food Program

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