

# ***Finding Quality Child Care: A Guide for Oregon Families***

## **Oregon Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Programs**

*Connect.Educate.Navigate*

### ***Why Quality Matters?***



One of the most important decisions that a parent will ever make is choosing the right kind of child care for their children. CCR&R programs assist parents with making well-informed choices that provide a variety of child development activities and experiences that are critical to brain development and life-long learning.

Your child's early years provide the foundation for learning throughout the entire life cycle. Early childhood experiences that include language development, storytelling, book learning, social activities with peers, sensitivity to culture and family traditions and a variety of early learning literacy experiences are some of the key elements of good child care.

Trust is the most common indicator of quality according to parent surveys. Quality care allows parents to know that their children are not only being protected from safety and health risks, but they are given many opportunities to learn and to develop a sound foundation for reading, social skills and school readiness. Parents need to know their children are in safe, happy and healthy environments.

### ***Steps to Finding Quality Child Care***

#### ***1. Start Early***

No matter what type of care you are considering, whether a child care center or care in someone else's home, finding the right child care option can take some time. Many quality child care businesses are full.

#### ***2. Make Calls and Begin Interviewing Child Care Businesses***

Call the child care businesses, set-up interviews and plan to visit each place that you have been referred to by your CCR&R program.

#### ***3. Visit and Ask Questions***

When visiting the child care business, find out about the number of children in care and how many children there are for each adult. Ask about the training and education of the child care professional. Check how long the child care business has been providing care. Find out if the child care business is licensed and, if it is accredited, what standards it meets. Check references and the child care business complaint history.

#### ***4. Evaluate your Options***

Did the children look happy? Was the environment well cared for? Were the children supervised at all times? Were the children served nutritious meals? Were the children engaged in play with educational opportunities? Were the staff well-trained? Can you visit your children at any time?

#### ***5. Make a Choice***

Think about what you saw at each visit, then make the best choice for your child and family. Does the child care professional relate well to children? Is the setting appropriate for children? Is it safe?

#### ***6. Stay Informed***

The work isn't over when you find good care for your child. You and your child care professional are partners now. Have regular meetings, volunteer time when needed and be there for your child's special events.

**Note: The referrals your local CCR&R program has given you are not recommendations. The CCR&R cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information nor the quality of child care.**

# **Child Care** *Quality Indicators*

Parents and professionals believe the most important indicator of quality is the relationship between the care provider and an individual child. Children benefit when stable, loving care child care professionals spend time with children. Frequent one-on-one adult-child interactions help children thrive and develop language and social skills needed for success in school and life.

CCR&Rs offer parents the opportunity to engage in the Quality Indicator Program. By learning about quality indicators, parents can review fact-based information that research has shown positively correlates to quality child care and good outcomes.

The Quality Indicators takes information gathered during the licensing process including number of children in a group, number of adults with a group, education and training, wages and benefits provided, and length of time working in a facility or length of time in business and uses this information to compile a report, comparing the child care professional against others in a region and in the state. These reports are sent to child care professionals for review; if the child care professional gives permission, the information in the reports will be published on a website, along with more detailed information on the care -- the schedule, the ages they care for, and special features offered by the child care business. The website can be accessed directly by parents, and the CCR&R can also use it during the referral process.

Parents have the final decisions about what is best for their child and family, but the Quality Indicators information gives parents a head start when they are looking for child care.



## ***Help With the Cost of Care***

If you need help paying for child care, the Department of Human Services (DHS) has programs that help low income families pay child care bills.

The Employment-Related Day Care program (ERDC) is for working families who earn below a certain income level and need child care in order to work.

The JOBS Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) Child Care program is for parents who are on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF) and need child care to participate in JOBS. For information about ERDC and JOBS, call your local DHS office or CCR&R program.

## ***Family Friends and Neighbors (FFN)***

Family, friend and neighbor (FFN) caregivers include grandparents, aunts and uncles, elders, older siblings, friends, neighbors, and others who help families take care of their kids on an informal basis. FFN caregivers are exempt from regulation by the state.

Families choose FFN care for a number of reasons, including: existing bonds of love and trust with a family member, friend or neighbor and shared language, culture, and values. In addition, some families need the greater flexibility of FFN care in order to meet non-traditional work hours.

## ***State Resources***

**Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)** are 13 programs serving all 36 counties statewide. See the back of this guide for your local program.

**Oregon Child Care Resource and Referral Network (OCCRRN)** supports high quality child care by promoting and providing leadership to develop and improve the 13 CCR&R programs. Call 800.342.6712.

**Child Care Division (CCD)** supports families by regulating child care that promotes safe, quality, affordable and accessible child care. Call 800.556.6616.

**Department of Human Services (DHS)** offers child care subsidy programs such as ERDC and JOBS to income eligible working families. Call you local DHS office.

## Child Care Options at a Glance

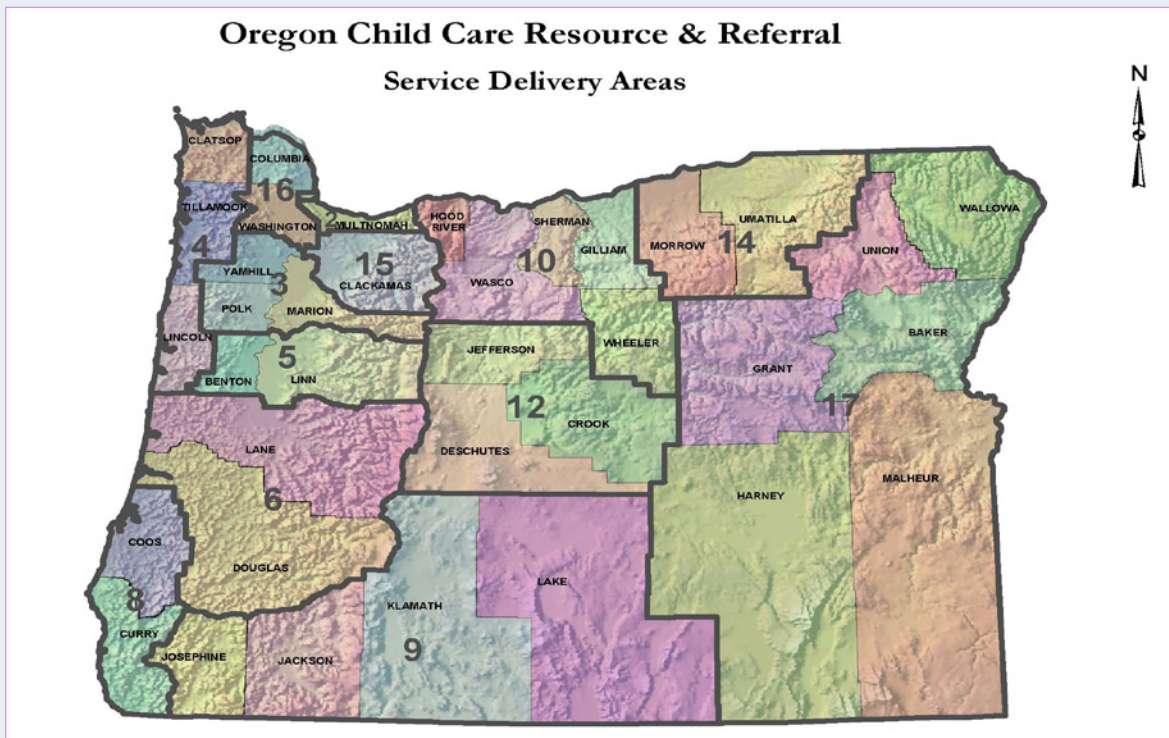
	<b>Types of Regulated Child Care in Oregon</b> The Child Care Division (CCD) regulates care in Oregon. You can reach them at: 503.947.1400 or 800.556.6616. Complaint history can be found at <a href="http://www.childcareinoregon.org">www.childcareinoregon.org</a> .			<b>Non Regulated Child Care</b>
<b>Areas to look at in a child care setting</b>	<b>Certified Child Care Centers</b>	<b>Certified Family Child Care</b>	<b>Registered Family Child Care</b>	<b>Exempt Family Child Care (Must be 18+ to be listed with DHS)</b>
<i># of children permitted at any one time in child care based on CCD regulations</i>	13+ or in a building not constructed as a single-family dwelling	Up to 16, (includes own children) a provider with 16 requires a wavier	10 ( includes own children) Only 6 children under the age of 6 and 2 children under the age of 2	Up to 3, if providing for more than one family (does not include the provider's children)
<i>Has had an on-site Health and Safety Inspection by CCD</i>	✓	✓	✓	Must meet basic safety and health standards (self-report if listed only with DHS)
<i>Has had a criminal background check</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓ (if listed with DHS)
<i>Planned activities</i>	✓	✓		
<i>Attendance records</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓ (if listed with DHS)
<i>Written guidance and discipline policy</i>	✓	✓	✓	(May have policy but not required)
<i>Daily routine/schedule</i>	✓	✓	✓	(May have policy but not required)
<i>Training requirements</i>	15 hours/year	15 hours/year	8 hours/2 years	(May have training but not required)
<i>Family Child Care Overview</i>		✓	✓	
<i>Infant/Child First Aid and CPR Training</i>	✓ (Staff who function as teachers)	✓ (Staff who function as assistants)	✓	
<i>Food Handlers Certificate Training</i>	✓ (Staff who handle/serve food)	✓ (Staff who handle/serve food)	✓	
<i>Child Abuse and Neglect Training</i>	✓	✓	✓	

### **Exempt Providers Listed with DHS-Direct Pay Unit (DPU) Health and Safety Standard**

- 2 outdoor exits on each floor children use, safe water to drink, working smoke detectors, working telephone
- Building, toys, grounds, equipment and furniture are kept clean, sanitary and hazard free
- Firearms, ammunition, and dangerous items like medicine, drugs, poison, cleaning supplies, paint, plastic bags kept in locked cabinet out of children's reach
- Fireplace and/or wood stove protection

## Local CCR&R Programs

- **Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Union & Wallowa**, 800.956.0324
  - **Clackamas**, 866.371.4373
  - **Coos & Curry**, 800.611.7555
- **Clatsop/Tillamook**, 877.333.4960, **Lincoln**, 800.603.2728
  - **Deschutes, Crook & Jefferson**, 888.298.2672
- **Gilliam, Hood River, Sherman, Wasco & Wheeler**, 800.755.1143
  - **Jackson, Josephine, Klamath & Lake**, 800.866.9034
    - **Lane & Douglas**, 800.222.3290
    - **Linn & Benton**, 800.845.1363
  - **Marion, Polk & Yamhill**, 800.289.5533
  - **Multnomah**, 866.227.5529
  - **Umatilla & Morrow**, 800.559.5878
  - **Washington & Columbia**, 800.624.9516



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