



Parent Link

Steps To Finding Quality Childcare

Being a working or student parent is a real challenge. Exploring child care options and making knowledgeable decisions can be very time consuming and overwhelming. From rattles to report cards, toilet training to tantrums, highchairs to high school and everything in between, parents today have many decisions to make. The latest research confirms that brain development during the first five years of life sets the stage for how children will think, learn and behave forever.

The list of providers you received today are all licensed by Kansas Department of Health & Environment. They also all participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Steps to finding quality child care:

1. Review the enclosed referral list and Parent Link.
2. Call providers to set up an appointment
3. Visit the facility and refer to the checklist for quality indicators

Follow these 10 steps to check the compliance of a facility that you are interested in:

1. Go to www.kdheks.gov/kidsnet
2. Find the box that says Child Care Early Education Portal
3. Click on Search for Child Care Facility Compliance Information
4. Again Click on Search for Child Care Facility Compliance Information
5. Enter the license number of the facility
6. Click Submit
7. Click on the Facility Name (in blue)
8. Wait a few seconds
9. You may click on View to obtain annual survey findings
10. You can see if a facility has had complaint surveys



Child Care Links

21 W. 2nd
Hutchinson, Kansas
620-669-0291
www.childcarelink.org

In This Newsletter

- How to recognize quality child care
- Capacity limits for day care homes
- Health information
- Child care payment assistance
- Speech and language milestones

Choosing a child care provider is a decision best made by you. Child Care Links can not recommend specific child care providers.

Tax Deductible Donation

Child Care Links is a non-profit agency designed to help parents with child care needs such as referrals and scholarships to help pay for child care.

We rely upon donations from parents like you to help with financial support. Please complete a donation card and return it with your tax deductible donation. This will insure that our services will be here to help you again in the future. Thank you for donation.



County Licensing Surveyors

Please feel free to contact your local county licensing surveyor if you have any concerns, questions or complaints regarding a child care provider or facility. You can also get information about licensed providers from Kansas Department of Health and Environment at www.kdheks.gov/bcclr.

Barton County Health Department

1300 Kansas Avenue
Great Bend, Ks 67530
620-793-1902

Kingman County Health Department

125 N. Spruce
Kingman, Ks 67068
620-532-2221

McPherson/Saline County Health Department

125 W. Elm
Salina, Ks 67401
785-826-6600

Pawnee County Health Department

715 Broadway
Larned, Ks 67550
620-285-6963

Pratt County Health Department

912 S. Main
Pratt, Ks 67124
620-672-4135



Reno County Health Department

209 W. 2nd
Hutchinson, Ks 67501
620-694-2900

Rice County Health Department

113 E 1st
Lyons, Ks 67554
620-257-2171

Stafford County Health Department

601 E 1st St.
St. John, Ks 67578
620-549-3504

Licensed Daycare Homes

License Capacity

Max # of children under 18 month	Max # of children 18 months to 5 years	Max # of children age 5 to 11	Total License Capacity
0	7	3	10
1	5	4	10
2	4	3	9
3	3	2	8

The right caregiver will relate well to you and have values and attitudes that are similar to yours.

Health Care

All Kansans need and deserve good health care but not all Kansans have access to affordable family health insurance. KanCare offers insurance coverage for up to 12 months at a time. Check to see if you qualify. 1-800-792-4884
www.kancare.ks.gov

Prairie Star Health Center

Health and Dental Services at reasonable rate. Same Day and Next Day Medical Appointments available. Most Insurances and those without insurance accepted. Rates based on a sliding scale based on income. Physicals, Minor Procedures, Well Child Checks, Dental Services, Women

Exams, Lab Services, Spanish Speaking Physician Assistant.

2700 E 30th
Hutchinson, Ks 67502
620-663-8484

www.prairiestarhealth.org

Quality Indicators for Evaluating A Child Care Program

Caregivers

- Do the caregivers seem to really like children?
- Do the caregivers get down on each child's level to speak to the child?
- Are the children greeted when they arrive?
- Are children's needs quickly met even when things get busy?
- Are the caregivers trained in CPR, first aid and early childhood education?
- Are the caregivers involved in continuing education programs?
- Does the program keep up with children's changing interests?
- Will the caregivers always be ready to answer your questions?
- Will the caregivers tell you what your child is doing every day?
- Are parents' ideas welcomed? Are there ways for you to get involved?
- Do the caregivers and children enjoy being together?
- Does the caregiver participate on the Child Care Food Program?
- Are caregivers trained and experienced? Ask to see training certificates.
- Do caregivers participate in early childhood development classes?



Need Help Paying For Child Care?

DCF (Department for Children and Families) can help some families pay for child care. Call 620-663-5731.

If you do not qualify for DCF assistance and live in Reno County, Child Care Links may be able to help through the child care subsidy program that we administer. Call 620-669-0291

The right caregiver will develop a positive, loving relationship with your child.

Setting

- Is the atmosphere bright and pleasant?
- Is there a fenced-in outdoor play area with a variety of safe equipment?
- Can the caregivers see the entire playground at all times?
- Are there different areas for resting, quiet play and active play?
- Is there enough space for the children in all of these areas?
- Ask about the emergency plan for fire and tornado drills

Activities

- Is there a daily balance of play time, story time, activity time and nap time?
- Are the activities right for each age group?
- Are there enough toys and learning activities for each age group?
- Are toys clean, safe and within reach of the children?

In General

- Do you agree with the discipline practices?
- Do you hear the sounds of happy children?
- Are children comforted when needed?
- Is the program licensed and regulated?
- Are surprise visits by the parents encouraged?
- Will your child be happy there?

Speech and Language Developmental Milestones

Birth to 5 Months

- Reacts to loud sounds
- Turns head toward a sound source
- Watches your face when you speak
- Vocalizes pleasure and displeasure sounds
- Makes noise when talked to

6 to 11 Months

- Understands "no-no"
- Babbles (says ba-ba-ba or ma-ma-ma)
- Tries to communicate by actions or gestures
- Tries to repeat your sounds

12 to 17 Months

- Attends to a book or toy for about two minutes
- Follows simple directions accompanied by gestures
- Answers simple questions nonverbally
- Points to objects, pictures, and family members
- Says two to three words to label a person or object
- Tries to imitate simple words

18-23 Months

- Enjoys being read to
- Follows simple commands without gestures
- Points to simple body parts such as "nose"

- Understands simple verbs
- Correctly pronounces most vowels and n, m, p, h especially in the beginning of syllables and short words. Also begins to use other speech sounds.

2-3 Years

- Knows about 50 words at 24 months
- Knows some spatial concepts such as "in" "on"
- Knows pronouns such as "you" "me" "her"
- Knows descriptive words such as "big" "happy"
- Says around 40 words at 24 months
- Speech is becoming more accurate but may still leave off ending sounds. Strangers may not be able to understand much of what is said
- Answers simple questions

3-4 Years

- Groups objects such as foods, clothes, etc.
- Identifies colors
- Uses most speech sounds but may distort some of the more difficult sounds such as l, r, s, sh, ch, y, v, z, th. These sounds may not be fully mastered until age 7 or 8
- Uses consonants in the beginning, middle and ends of words. Some of the more difficult consonants may be distorted, but attempts to say them

4-5 Years

- Understands spatial concepts such as "behind" "next to"
- Understands complex questions
- Speech is understandable but makes mistakes pronouncing long, difficult, or complex words such as "hippopotamus"
- Says about 200-300 different words
- Uses some irregular past tense verbs such as "ran" "fell"
- Describes how to do things such as painting a picture
- Defines words
- Lists items that belong in a category such as animals, vehicles, etc.
- Answers "why" questions

5 Years

- Understands more than 2,000 words
- Understands time sequences (what happened first, second, third, etc.)
- Carries out a series of three directions
- Engages in conversation
- Understands rhyming
- Sentences can be 8 or more words in length
- Uses compound and complex sentences
- Describes objects
- Uses imagination to create

Q. What Should I do if my child's speech or language appears to be delayed?

A. Talk to your family doctor if you have any concerns about your child's speech or language, the above checklist should help you talk about your concerns.

