



Quality FINDING QUALITY CARE

CHOOSING QUALITY CARE FOR A CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Most children, including those with disabilities and special needs, spend some time in a child care environment during early childhood, as well as while attending school.

Enhanced Referral

As a parent with a child of special needs, the best way to find high quality child care is to take advantage of the enhanced referral service offered by some local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies.

The referral counselor will conduct a search and will call to verify that the child care sites have openings that will meet the needs of your family.

Components of the enhanced referral include:

- Vacancy checks to ensure the provider still has an opening for the child.
- Explanation of the child’s specific needs to ensure the provider will be able to meet those needs.
- The Child Care Resource and Referral counselor will offer support to the provider to assist them in making reasonable accommodations for the child’s needs.
- Calls will be made to the parents of the child on a regular basis until care is found.

Other Resources

- Call your local Child Care Resource and Referral agency. For help locating your local agency call 1-877-338-CARE or visit www.qualistar.org
- Contact your local school district and local early intervention program for resources and help.
- Ask other families
- Check community resources and support groups.
- Contact other national/state/local organizations such as Easter Seals (www.easter-seals.org), whose members provide services to children with special needs.
- If you require additional information, contact Early Childhood Connections at 1-888-777-4041.

In a quality inclusive early learning environment, providers respond positively to differences in children’s abilities, interests and experiences.

Children are able to develop a greater appreciation for each other and for individual differences.