



Choices

WHAT ARE MY CHOICES?

Child Care Centers and Preschools

What is it?

Care is provided in a setting similar to school where there may be many classrooms, and children are usually grouped by age. Child Care Centers and Preschools are regulated by the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care.

Pros

- Last minute closures due to provider illness is unlikely
- Frequently offers a child development or preschool curriculum
- Facility is inspected for health, safety, and fire code compliance

Cons

- High turnover of staff can be common
- Some children may not adapt well to large group settings
- Usually does not have flexible hours

Family Home Child Care

What is it?

Your child is cared for in a home (not a relative's) that has been licensed by the state to provide child care. Family Home Child Care is regulated by the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care, and must meet different licensing requirements depending on the type of facility.

Pros

- Allows you to choose the individual who will care for your child
- Smaller group of children in a home-like environment
- May offer flexible hours
- May include a child development or preschool curriculum

Cons

- When individual is sick or on vacation, other plans for care will need to be made
- A single adult is usually alone with a group of children



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In-Home Care

What is it?

Sometimes called “nanny care”. You hire an individual to work in your home to take care of your child, setting the hours, responsibilities, and compensation for the job. In-Home Care is not regulated in Colorado.

Pros

- Convenient and may offer flexible hours
- Relationship can be fostered between nanny and child
- Child remains in a home environment and is able to build a good relationship with one person

Cons

- Expensive; usually costs \$250 - \$450 per week per child
- Fewer opportunities for children to socialize
- You are responsible for background checks, social security, and salary

Relative Care

What is it?

An agreement with a family member to provide care in their home or yours. Relative Care is not regulated in Colorado, however a relative who receives reimbursement for child care must pass a criminal record check, and all must limit child enrollment to a single family.

Pros

- Established caring relationship between child, parents, and provider
- Flexible hours and fees
- One-on-one care

Cons

- Child development resources may not be available or adequate
- You will need to agree on health and safety issues
- The provider’s age, health, or available time may limit interactions with child

School Age Child Care

What is it?

Care for school-age children, before and after school, on holidays, and during the summer, may be offered by family homes, child care centers, and schools. School Age Child Care is regulated by the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care.

Pros

- May be located in the school your child attends
- Many programs will transport your child to and from school
- May offer field trips, or assistance with the child’s homework

Cons

- Children are usually of different ages and have very different interests which may not always be met