



Choosing the Right Child Care for Your Child



Choosing the Best Care for Your Child

Choosing a child care provider is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. What works well for one family may not work for another. **You are the judge.** To make this important decision, you need to be educated about the people that care for your child. This brochure is designed to help you make this decision.

Financial Assistance for Child Care

Workforce Solutions Texoma can provide financial assistance for families who need help paying for child care so they can work or go to school. Families who may be eligible for child care assistance include:

- Parents who are receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Parents who have recently been denied TANF income and are working
- Low-income families who are working, going to school or participating in training, or
- Teen parents from low-income families who need child care to finish school

If you think you qualify for financial assistance, you can contact Workforce Solutions Texoma at 903-463-9997 or 1-888-813-1992 and ask to speak to a child care representative or email your request to: child-care@workforcesolutionstexoma.com.

If you are eligible, but funds are not available at the time you request assistance, you will be placed on a waiting list. When funding becomes available, families are contacted according to Workforce Solutions Texoma priorities for funding and the order in which requests for assistance were received.

Families who are determined eligible for child care assistance may choose from a wide range of child care arrangements for their children. Workforce Solutions Texoma works with Licensed Centers, Licensed Family Homes and Registered Family Homes.

In addition, families may choose to have an eligible relative care for their child. To be eligible, the relative must be related by blood, marriage or court decree and be the child's grandparent, great-grandparent, aunt, uncle or adult sibling who maintains a separate residence, and be a Listed Home with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS).

Minimum Requirements for Child Care Providers

TDFPS is responsible for setting and enforcing the standards for health and safety of children in regulated child care settings. Child care options in Texas:

Licensed facilities: Facilities (either centers or homes) are routinely inspected at least once every 12 months to ensure they meet minimum standards to be licensed.

Registered family homes: Family homes are inspected every 1 to 2 years to ensure minimum standards are met.

Listed family homes: Caregivers (18 years) who receive payment for providing regular child care in the home must be listed with TDFPS. No inspection or minimum standards are required other than a caregiver application and background check.

For Information about a Child Care Center or Home contact the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services at: 1-800-862-5252 or search their website at: http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Search_Texas_Child_Care



Going Above Minimum Requirements

Child care providers can choose to meet program standards that exceed minimum standards set by TDFPS by agreeing to the following: smaller group sizes, additional training for directors and caregivers, and accreditation by a professional organization that requires a specific set of standards. Examples of such quality child care programs are noted below.

Texas Rising Star Providers

A Texas Rising Star Provider is a child care provider that voluntarily meets requirements that exceed the State's Minimum Licensing Standards for child care facilities. The Texas Rising Star Provider certification system provides graduated levels of certification as providers meet progressively higher standards.

Texas School Ready! Certification

Texas School Ready!™ is a program that certifies preschool education classrooms that effectively prepared their students for kindergarten. When classrooms earn certification, they receive the Texas School Ready!™ seal which is posted in the early childhood education center or school. The seal has the year the certification was awarded. This powerful seal tells parents, the community, and others that the children who graduated from these classrooms went to public kindergarten with the fundamental skills in place to be successful.

National Accredited Providers

The following organizations are recognized by the Texas Workforce Commission and list nationally accredited providers in Texas on their website:

National Association for the Education of Young Children - www.naeyc.org

National Early Childhood Program Accreditation - www.necpa.net

National Accreditation Commission for the Early Care and Education Program - www.naccp.org

Association of Christian Schools International - www.acsi.org

National Association for Family Care - www.nafcc.org

National AfterSchool Association - www.naaweb.org

Assistance Finding Child Care

2-1-1 keeps current information on a variety of child care arrangements including afterschool programs, religiously affiliated programs and seasonal programs, as well as child care providers who are regulated by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS).



Workforce Solutions Texoma Centers

COOKE COUNTY

900 North Grand Avenue, Suite 103
Gainesville, TX 76240
Phone: 940-665-1121 Fax: 940-668-2366

FANNIN COUNTY

1205 East Sam Rayburn Drive
Bonham, Texas 75418
Phone: 903-640-0222 Fax: 903-640-0052

GRAYSON COUNTY

2415 S. Austin Avenue, Suite 105
Denison, Texas 75020
Phone: 903-463-9997 Fax: 903-463-3073
Toll Free: 1-888-813-1992

Additional Child Care Contact Information:

Texas Department of Health and Human Services:

General Information: 1-817-264-4000
Immunization: 1-800-252-9152
WIC Program: 1-800-942-3678

Cooke County: 940-665-9315
Fannin County: 903-583-5535
Grayson County: 903-892-0581

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services:

To report Child Abuse: 1-800-252-5400

Workforce Solutions Texoma services are available to any eligible person without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, political belief, or religion, as provided by law.