

Choosing the Right Child Care for Your Child



Language Assistance/Asistencia de idioma

This document contains vital information about requirements, rights, determinations, and/or responsibilities for accessing workforce system services. Language services, including the interpretation/translation of this document, are available free of charge upon request.

Este documento contiene información importante sobre los requisitos, los derechos, las determinaciones y las responsabilidades del acceso a los servicios del sistema de la fuerza laboral. Hay disponibles servicios de idioma, incluida la interpretación y la traducción de documentos, sin ningún costo y a solicitud.

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
- Qualified veterans
- Children experiencing homelessness
- Parents on military deployment
- Low-income families who are working, going to school or participating in training, or who are looking for work, 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: childcare@wfstexoma.org

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 Health and Human Services Child Care Regulation (THHS CCR).

Minimum Requirements for Child Care Providers

You have the option to choose the provider type that best meets your child care needs. THHS CCR is responsible for setting and enforcing the standards for health and safety of children in regulated child care settings and conducts inspections and monitoring regularly. Child care options in Texas include:

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 year to ensure minimum standards are met.

Listed family homes: Relative providers (18 years or older) who receive payment for providing regular child care in the home must be listed with THHS CCR. For listed family homes, no inspection or minimum standards are required other than a caregiver application and background check.



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 Texas Health and Human Services Child Care Regulation (THHS CCR).



Going Above Minimum Requirements

Child care providers can meet program standards that exceed minimum standards set by THHS 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 (TRS) Providers

The Texas Rising Star program is the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for Texas. The program uses a standard set of criteria and contains three levels of certification: 2-star, 3-star, and 4-star (the highest quality level rating). As part of the 87th Texas Legislature, House Bill 2607, requires all Child Care Services (CCS) providers to participate in the TRS program effective 10/3/22 and attain TRS certification within two years.

You can find more information at: <https://texasrisingstar.org/parents/>

Texas School Ready!

Texas School Ready!™ is a comprehensive preschool teacher training program combining a research-based, state-adopted curriculum with ongoing professional development and progress monitoring tools. The goal of this program is to help children be better prepared for school. This program is administered by the Children's Learning Institute at the UT Health Science Center at Houston. For more information, go to: <https://texasschoolready.org/>

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 (NAEYC)
- National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)
- National Accreditation Commission for the Early Care and Education Program (NAC)
- National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC)
- Council on Accreditation (COA)
- Cognia (previously known as AdvancED)
- Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)

Texas Child Care Solutions

The Texas Child Care Solutions website was developed by the Texas Workforce Commission to provide parents access to accurate and consistent information to assist them in making informed choices to meet their child care needs. Texas Child Care Solutions connects Texas parents with up-to-date parent information, ideas and on-the-ground resources. Find additional information, support organizations and programs near you by visiting <http://texaschildcaresolutions.org>.

Developmental Screenings

Texas Health Steps Medical Checkups - My Children's Medicaid is a wellness program for children, teens and young adults age 20 and younger. Texas Health Steps helps remind you to make sure your children get their medical and dental checkups. As long as your children have Medicaid, they have Texas Health Steps. For more information, please visit: <https://www.mychildrensmcicaid.org>.

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Services for children ages birth-3 years provides evaluations, at no cost to families, to determine eligibility and the need for services. For more information, please visit: <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/early-childhood-intervention-services>.

Texas Education Agency (TEA) Services are for eligible children with disabilities ages 3-5. Children may receive special education and related services provided by the school district. For more information, please visit: <https://tea.texas.gov>.

Helpful Contact Information:

Workforce Solutions Texoma Centers

COOKE COUNTY

1311 N. Grand Avenue, Suite 200
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

Texas 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 is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call 711 for assistance. 100% Federally Funded.