

LOOKING FOR CHILD CARE ?



Our trained staff can create a
free, customized list of
licensed child care programs
that meet your
child care needs!

www.wa.childcareaware.org

1-800-446-1114



Choosing Child Care



ELEMENTS OF QUALITY CHILD CARE:

- ◆ Health and safety: facility is organized, safe and clean and in good standing with licensing
- ◆ Learning environment: nurturing environment supports the whole child
- ◆ Small group size and staff ratios: help each child grow and learn
- ◆ Quality Improvement: Program strives to meet higher quality standards, including through accreditation or participation in Washington's Early Achievers program if available
- ◆ Family relationships and participation: Program has open door policy, embraces diversity and makes meaningful efforts to engage all families
- ◆ Staff professionalism, training and turnover: staff have the knowledge and experience to meet each child's needs and value the diversity of families and seek ongoing education and training.

CHILD CARE AWARE SERVICES

Our trained counselors will assist you in finding child care best suited to your needs. A listing is created through our database of all licensed homes and centers throughout Washington State. We offer services in all languages.



Your Voice Can Make a Difference for Child Care in Washington

All three proposed budgets before the Washington State Legislature are bad news for Washington's child care providers. None of them address years of underpayment by the state for child care assistance (Working Connections Child Care – WCCC) and the impact of WA's recently increased minimum wage.

Your advocacy is needed now so that lawmakers hear from families of children in child care. If support for child care is not increased, many child care providers will close or will no longer be able to afford to serve children whose families receive child care assistance. Already 72% of providers report they have raised, or soon will raise, the rates families pay. Many families cannot afford to pay more. Turn this card over to see how you can help.

Child Care Aware of Washington

(866) 416-4321

wa.childcareaware.org

Contact your Representatives in Olympia to Raise your Voice in Support of Quality Child Care in Washington

Please contact your representatives in Olympia and tell them to invest at least \$40 million into WA's child care system. Visit <http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/> to find out who represents you in Olympia. You can also send a quick email from our online Advocacy Action Center at <http://wa.childcareaware.org/about-us/advocacy>, or call the legislative hotline at (800) 562-6000. Thank you for making your voice heard for children and families in Washington!



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**Child Care Aware of Washington has
been connecting families to high-quality
child care for over 25 years.**

Washington's most trusted child care resource



Understanding the Early Achievers Ratings

Early Achievers rates the quality of child care and early learning programs on a scale of 1 to 5. A Level 1 simply means a child care program is not enrolled in Early Achievers.

Level 2 programs are participating in quality improvement in partnership with coaching support and incentives.

Levels 3-5 are points-based and earned through on-site evaluations conducted by the University of Washington.

Level 3 programs demonstrate supporting and nurturing interactions with children, developmentally appropriate practice and view parents as partners in their children's learning. These programs may be implementing some best practices in early childhood education (ECE) and working toward implementing others to help prepare children for kindergarten. Some staff may have ECE-specific degrees and credentials.

Level 4 programs have a focus on preparing children for kindergarten, supporting overall development of individual children and include parents in their child's learning and development plan. Teachers in these programs have time to plan for and create rich learning environments and curriculum. Some staff have ECE-specific degrees and credentials.

Level 5 programs demonstrate consistent best practices associated with positive child outcomes for all children and include a deep understanding of how to individualize instruction/support for every child and family based on information gathered by the program. Many teachers in these programs have ECE-specific degrees and credentials.

Early Achievers rates child care programs on quality in four main areas:

- Child Outcomes
- Curriculum, Learning Environment and Interactions
- Professional Development and Training
- Family Engagement and Partnership

Each of these areas cover important components of high-quality child care—things that *really* make a difference for young children. Think of them as best practices in early learning.

Some Early Achievers providers specialize in key areas of child development. These Areas of Specialization are:

- Interactions and Environment
- Curriculum and Staff Supports
- Staff Professionalism
- Family Engagement and Partnerships
- Child Outcomes



Contact Child Care Aware of WA's Family Center to begin your search for high-quality child care in your area.

Call 1-800-446-1114 or go online to:
<http://wa.childcareaware.org/families>

Also, be sure to visit the Department of Early Learning's Child Care Check at <https://apps.del.wa.gov/check/CheckSearch.aspx> to learn more in-depth information about any child care program you are considering.



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