

## Definitions

**Child Care Center:** Full or part-time child care, usually year-round, in groups.

**Nursery School:** Part-time program which operates during the school year for children 2 to 5 years.

**Family Child Care Home:** Full or part-time care for children in a caregiver's home.

**Before and After School Care:** Program which provides care for school-aged children before and after the regular school day located in centers, homes, community buildings, or public schools.

**Financial Assistance:** Subsidies, scholarships or sliding fee scales to help meet child care fees.

**Assistance to Providers:** Orientation, technical assistance and training offered to persons interested in, or already providing care to young children.

## Additional Resources

Check your local library for books and further information or contact the following organizations.

- ♦ National Association for the Education of Young Children, 1509 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. (202) 232-8777
- ♦ National Association for Family Child Care 1331-A Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 348, Washington, D.C. 20004. 1-800-359-3817.
- ♦ National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, 1319 F Street, N.W., Suite 810, Washington, D.C. 20004-1106. (202) 393-5501.
- ♦ National Black Child Development Institute Inc., 1023 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. (202) 387-1281.
- ♦ National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organizations, 1501 16th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. (202) 387-5000.

## Tips for Selecting Child Care

The phone numbers and organizations listed provide resource and referral information about child care centers, nursery schools, family child care, and before and after school child care in the Washington metropolitan region. Information is provided by mail or over the phone and may include ages of children served, location, and hours of operation. A fee for information may be charged. The following suggestions for selecting child care are offered.

- ♦ Decide what you need and want in a child care setting, including number of hours, time of day, location, cost, size of group, and the philosophy of a program.
- ♦ Call the numbers listed in this brochure for more information. Ask about the process used to include providers and programs on their lists, about regulations and standards, and aspects of quality child care.
- ♦ Call several providers and arrange a visit. Ask if there is a waiting list. When visiting observe the program, facility, staff and caregivers, and children.
- ♦ Check references with parents who have used the provider or program.
- ♦ Obtain and review written materials about guidelines and policies, procedures of the program. Ask what both the caregiver's and the parent's responsibilities are. Ask about procedures if a parent arrives after hours or for closing due to weather.
- ♦ Each family is unique. Take time to choose quality child care that you determine feels right to you and your child.
- ♦ Monitor closely and participate in your child's care. Communication helps to ensure an effective partnership between families and caregivers.

This brochure is provided as a public service and in no way represents an endorsement of the information provided by these agencies.

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# CHILD *locating* CARE



In the  
Metropolitan  
Washington Area



# Locating Child Care in the Washington Metropolitan Region

Where to Call		Phone Number	Centers & Nursery Schools	Family Child Care	Before & After School Care	Financial Assistance Information	Assistance to Providers
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (202)</b>							
District of Columbia	Office of Early Childhood Development	727-1839	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs	727-7226	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Washington Child Development Council	387-0002	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>MARYLAND (301)</b>							
Calvert, Charles, & St. Mary's Counties	Child Care Administration, DHR Licensing	475-3770	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Department of Social Services Calvert (410)	535-8700				✓	
	Department of Social Services Charles	934-2700				✓	
	Department of Social Services St. Mary's	475-4700	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Frederick County	Child Care Administration, DHR Licensing	695-9766					✓
	Department of Social Services 694-4523 OR	694-2452				✓	
	Frederick Child Care Consortium	695-4508	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Montgomery County	Office of Child Care Subsidies	217-1155				✓	
	Child Care Connection, Inc.	279-1773	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Children's Resource Center	279-1260					✓
Prince George's County	Department of Social Services	808-5543				✓	
	Prince George's Child Care Resource Center/LOCATE	772-8400	✓	✓	✓		✓
<b>VIRGINIA (703)</b>							
Alexandria	Department of Human Services	838-0750	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Arlington County	Child Care Office	358-5101	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Child Day Care Services	358-5098				✓	
	Public Schools-Extended Day	358-6069			✓		
City of Fairfax	Human Services Coordinator	385-7894	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fairfax County	Office for Children	449-9555	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
City of Falls Church	Department of Housing and Human Services (TTD # 241-5149)	241-5005	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Office of Community Education	241-7682			✓	✓	
Loudoun County	Department of Social Services	777-0353	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Parks and Recreation	777-0343			✓		
City of Manassas	Department of Social Services (ext. 323)	361-8277				✓	
Manassas Park	Department of Social Services	335-8880	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Prince William County	Child Care Options	792-4300	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (703) - available to DoD employees only; active duty and DoD civilian</b>							
All Metro Areas	Child Care Resource and Referral 607-7281 OR	607-8459	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓