



Choosing Quality Registered Child Care Ministries



Choosing child care can be tough and it is important to understand your options. Below is some information regarding registered child care ministries. The information listed defines a registered child care ministry and gives some tips on choosing child care that meets your family's needs.

Registered Child Care Ministries

Program and equipment must include:

- Letting Parents visit any time
- Keeping equipment in safe condition
- Posting the registration certificate with quarterly status stickers attached

Everyone working at a registered ministry must:

- Have a limited criminal history check on file
- Be trained in universal precautions

The place where child care is provided:

- Be in sound, neat and sanitary condition

Children's records must include:

- An immunization record
- A signed parent notice that the child care is registered and NOT licensed

There are only 16+ eligibility standards that non-licensed child care programs must meet who accept CCDF Vouchers. Non-licensed child care programs have **NO SET CHILD STAFF RATIOS** they may have the number of children enrolled that is set as capacity by the State Fire Marshal. You may hear non-licensed family child care providers referred to as legally licensed exempt providers. The 17 standards that non-licensed providers accepting child care development fund vouchers (CCDF) are:

- All members of the household age 18 or older must pass a limited criminal history check
- All members of the household age 18 or older must pass a 5 panel drug screen signed by a medical review officer
- There must be one person on site that is certified in CPR and all staff members must be trained in First Aid
- All members of the household age 18 or older must provide results of Mantoux TB test
- All members of the household age 18 or older must provide evidence that they have not been named as an alleged perpetrator of child abuse or neglect
- The facility must have working smoke detectors
- There must be written emergency plans
- Monthly fire drills must be conducted
- There must be a working land line telephone
- The environment must be inaccessible to firearms, poisons, chemicals and medications
- There must be two ground level exits that can be practiced in a fire drill. The exits may not be windows.
- There must be at a minimum 2 (2 1/2) pound fire extinguishers that are ABC approved
- The provider must provide proof of running water
- The provider must maintain current immunization records for all children
- The provider must sign and agree to a tobacco and substance policy regarding the use of tobacco or alcohol during child care
- The children must remain in sight or sound at all times

Check It Out
Quality Indicators

Ask these questions to evaluate your child care options:

Does the person who will be caring for your child have special training in early childhood education, First Aid, and CPR?

How long has the caregiver been in the same program or providing child care in the home?

Are just a few children being cared for by one caregiver (low child/adult ratio)?

If there is more than one caregiver in the setting, is the total number of children in the group still fairly small (group size)?

If you are considering a more formal child care program, is it nationally accredited, and is it state licensed or regulated?

Does the caregiver welcome drop-in visits and parent ideas and involvement?

Does the caregiver get on the children's eye level, and give them lots of attention and encouragement?

Are there planned activities for children to do as well as lots of time for free play?

Are materials—such as books, blocks, and art materials—available to children all day long?

Does the place look clean and safe and is hand washing done often?

This list taken from www.childcareaware.org