



# Is this child care program right for my family?

**Every family's situation is unique.** Here's what you should consider when choosing a child care program.



	PROGRAM NAME	PROGRAM NAME
<b>Do you need financial assistance?</b>		
Does the program accept government subsidies or offer financial assistance that helps families pay for child care? (Ex. <i>Child Care Works</i> )		
Does the program provide services with all costs covered? (Ex. <i>Catherine Hershey Schools for Early Learning</i> )		
What are the requirements to receive financial aid? <i>Every program has different financial aid requirements, and it may be easier to qualify than you think.</i>		

<b>Does the program feel comfortable and safe for your child?</b>		
<i>If a program's child care center offers a tour, observe things like:</i>		
Building security: What is required for entry/pickup?		
Classroom layout: Is it child-proofed, well-lit, open, and organized? Are there a variety of spaces to support stimulating learning through play?		
Cleanliness: What are the cleaning procedures?		
How teachers and staff interact with children: Listen for laughter, play, and a positive, nurturing tone of voice.		
Class sizes: How many children and teachers are in each class?		
Communication: How do teachers and administrators communicate with families? Is there an app?		

<b>Does the program offer family resources?</b>		
How does the program involve and communicate with families?		
Does the program offer family resources and supports like dedicated staff members, information sessions, resource fairs, and more?		



	PROGRAM NAME	PROGRAM NAME
<b>Do you need a full-time or part-time program?</b>  Is it a two-, three-, or five-day program? Is it a full day or half day? <i>Full-time, five-day programs are often recommended because the consistency helps children more quickly develop cognitive, social, and emotional skills.</i>		
Are there attendance requirements?		
Is the program year-round?		
How many closures does the program have each year when child care is not available?		

<b>Does the program offer additional supports?</b>  Does the program offer basic supplies like diapers, wipes, sunscreen, dental items, etc.?		
Are meals provided?		
Does the program offer transportation?		

<b>Is there space available for your child?</b>  When does the program start accepting students? <i>Many programs fill up quickly. Start looking at child care options in the winter for enrollment the following fall.</i>		
Does the program have a waitlist? <i>You can sign up for multiple waitlists.</i>		
Do you need to pay a deposit or fee to apply/be added to the waitlist?		

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**This is just a starting point. Remember to ask additional questions as they come up!**

For more tips on finding the right child care and beyond, visit [chslearn.org/resources/for-families](https://chslearn.org/resources/for-families)