

## Need Help Finding Child Care? Child Care Resource Centers Can Help You!

### LOCATE: Child Care

Selecting child care is one of the most important decisions your family will make for your young child. Because your child's first five years last forever, take the time to make the best choice.

#### [LOCATE: Child Care Now](#)

For free, personalized assistance, contact a LOCATE: Child Care referral specialist by calling [877-261-0060](tel:877-261-0060) Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. A referral specialist will help you to identify child care options based on your family's specific needs.

Para obtener referencias de proveedores licenciados por favor llame LOCATE: Child Care al [877.261.0060](tel:877.261.0060).

#### What is LOCATE: Child Care

[LOCATE: Child Care](#), is a free and confidential referral service that will help you find the best child care for your family. The program is affiliated with all of Maryland's regulated child care providers. Our referral options include:

- Child care
- Center-based care facilities
- Private kindergartens
- Private nursery schools
- Head Start programs
- School-age & After-school programs
- To find summer camp options for children visit the [Maryland Department of Health's new searchable database](#).

When a parent contacts **LOCATE: Child Care** a referral specialist will:

- Discuss the family's child care preferences, including type of care, location, cost, and other variables;
- Describe the type of child care available;
- Explain guidelines for quality child care;
- Search the LOCATE: Child Care database to present families with a list of options;
- Provide current information on early childhood education and best child care practices; and
- Link the caller to other resources, such as the Maryland Child Care Scholarship Program.

## Are you taking advantage of federal tax benefits to help make child care more affordable?

- There is a federal tax credit for child care expenses that allows a modest credit against individual/family taxes owed.
- There is a business employee benefit that enables employees to set-aside money for child care tax-free that can be used to reimburse some child care expenses.

### **Need help affording the cost of child care?**

For lower wage families, child care scholarships are available based on family size and income. To find out more about the Maryland [Child Care Scholarship \(CCS\) program](#) that helps families afford quality child care, visit the [Department of Education's web site](#) or download [this brochure](#). Eligible families can earn up to 60% of state median income and still potentially qualify for a child care scholarship. Families with annual income up to \$61,222 for a family of two, \$75,627 for a family of three, \$90,033 for a family of four, and \$104,438 for a family of five may be eligible for a scholarship to help make child care more affordable. For more information about child care assistance eligibility: <https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/child-care-scholarship-program>

### **Looking for Child Care?**

Download this [parent checklist](#) to ask child care providers when searching for care.