The Hive EDUCATION

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Searching for the Right Child Care Program

If this is your first time looking for child care, you may be wondering where to begin or who to call. We've got you covered with everything you need to know to get started!

What Does a High-Quality Learning Center Look Like? When you are trying to find the right learning center, you'll probably have a lot on your mind. Things like location, cost, and hours will be some of the factors you may use to make your choice. As you consider your options, be sure to make quality a top priority!

WHY QUALITY? A child's brain goes through amazing changes and growth during their early years. The experiences that children have during this time will influence how they learn and develop.

How are child care programs regulated?

A child care license is often required for a program to legally operate. States typically have a child care licensing office that oversees and monitors licensed programs. Some cities or counties also have licensing requirements that programs must meet in order to operate. A child care license is important to ensure that programs have met basic health and safety standards in order to protect children.

How can I find and choose the right program?

Step 1: Create a list of child care providers for you to contact based on your needs. They may also have an option to search for child care online.

Step 2: Call providers - Once you've done some research on the child care programs you're considering, call each one to get additional information. Use this time to ask about whether there is space for your child, the weekly or monthly rate for your child, hours of operation, and if there are any discounts or scholarships available for child care. If you plan to apply for child care assistance, make sure the provider participates or is willing to participate in your state's program. If the program sounds like it may meet your needs, set up a time with the child care provider for you to take a tour of the facility.

Step 3: Take the tour! Your child care visit is the best opportunity to: Get a feel for the environment, interactions and routines Ensure that health and safety measures are in place Look for indicators of quality child care

What types of child care programs are available?

When you are looking for child care, there are several types that you may choose from. There is no onesize-fits-all child care program. You will want to take your family's needs, preferences, and experiences into account and choose the type of care that is the best fit for you. If choosing a formal child care setting, be sure to verify that the program is licensed to provide care in your region.

Child Care Centers

A child care center often has a classroom-type setting. Centers tend to be larger and can enroll more children. Children are cared for with others their same age. There is a dedicated director and numerous staff members.

Family Child Care Home

A family child care home is a program typically run by one or two child care providers. The setting is a residential building, often the caregiver's home. Family child care providers are able to care for a small group of children of varying ages.

Preschool Program

Preschool programs are typically offered for children ages 3-5 years old. These types of settings are designed to help prepare children for kindergarten. They are often part-time and may be provided through a school, faith-based organization, or child care center.

School Age Program

chool-age programs provide child care for beforeand after-school hours. They may also offer care during school holidays and breaks. These programs may be offered by the school, or at a child care center

Make the Most of Your Child Care Visit!

COME PREPARED!

Have a list ready of the questions that you want to ask and the things you plan to look for during your visit. The following elements are considered quality indicators. This means that programs with these features are better equipped to provide quality care for your child. This list of quality indicators can help you create your own checklist for a child care visit:

Low Adult to Child Ratio

Ask how many children there are for each adult

The fewer the children for each adult, the better for your child. You want your child to get plenty of attention. The younger your child, the more important this is. Babies need an adult to child ratio of no more than one adult for three or four infants.

Small Group Sizes

Find out how many children are in the group. The smaller the group, the better for your child. Babies need a group size of no more than six to eight in a room. Four□year-olds should be in a group of no more than 16-20 children

Child Care Provider Qualifications and Experience

Ask about the child care providers' training and education. Child care providers with special training in working with children are better able to help your child learn. Some specific qualifications that you can ask about are:

Years of experience – look for caregivers with at least 2 years' experience

Training to work with children – a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or a degree in early childhood education or a related field Ongoing professional development trainings

Health and Safety Training – CPR and first aid, recognizing and reporting suspected child abuse, and safe infant sleep practices

Background checks – ask if checks for caregivers and staff include fingerprints

Accreditations – FOCUS, NM Prek, Early Childhood Education and Care Department.

Curriculum - FOCUS, Creative, Connect4, Alegra Learning, Kinder Musik, Ready Rosie

Adult – Child Interactions

Watch the interactions between the provider(s) and the children. Providers should seem warm and friendly to adults and children, greeting each child and showing an interest in their activities. You should hear caregivers having respectful, twoway conversations with children (even babies!) throughout the day, getting down to the child's level to talk, listen, and respond. welcoming parent drop-in visits, ideas, and involvement. Ask if the program has an emergency plan for how they'll care for children and contact parents in case of an emergency. Look for their discipline or guidance.

Health and Safety Measures

Ask about practices in place designed to keep children healthy and safe.

This includes frequent hand-washing, regularly cleaning and sanitizing toys and surfaces, safe infant sleep practices daily inspections of indoor and outdoor play area and equipment, and others. policies and information on when children should stay home due to illness.

Policies and procedures should also include details about rates, fees, and payment schedules

Developmentally Appropriate Practices

Look for a variety of developmentally appropriate toys, books, and art supplies available to children during the day. Children should have the opportunity to participate in planned activities that will interest and challenge them. There should be plenty of time for free play, indoors and out. Caregivers should use positive guidance when children need assistance.

Low Staff Turnover

Check how long the child care providers have been at the center or providing care in their homes. It is best if children have the same child care provider for at least a year. Getting used to new child care providers takes time and energy that could be spent on learning new things.

Policies and Procedures

Ask for a copy of the parent handbook or written policies. These should include the provider's "Open Door Policy"

15 Must-Haves for All Child Care Programs

Can you check yes for each of these 15 must-haves? Print this list and take it with you when you visit potential programs. Use the "yes" and "no" sections to compare up to three different child care options.

Can you check yes for each of these 15 must-haves? Portions of this checklist have been adapted from content originally created by Child Care Aware of America (Is This the Right Place for My Child? 38 Research-Based Indicators of Quality Child Care). The checklist also draws on the Parent Toolkit, from the U.S. Department of Education and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	PROGRAM NAME 1		PROGRAM NAME 2		PROGRAM NAME 3	
	THE HIVE EDUCATION LEARNING CENTERS Bumble Bee Learning Center, Brilliant Bees Learning Center & New Mexico Children First.					
QUESTIONS	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Is the program licensed? Ask to see the license. If not, ask why and then check your State's licensing regulations to make sure the program is not required to be licensed.						
Are visits from parents allowed and encouraged anytime the child care program is open?						
Does the program have an appropriate number of adults looking after each group of children? This is known as the child-to-adult ratio. Recommended ratios are usually lower for younger children						
Are children, including infants, supervised at all times, even when they are sleeping?						
Does the director have a college degree in child development or a related field? Do teachers have a credential in early childhood education or a related field? Do all adults in the program receive ongoing training in working with children and child development?						
Is there a planned schedule or activities for each day or week that encourages learning and includes active and quiet play, group and individual learning activities, rest or nap time, and meal times?						
Is the environment safe, clean, and well maintained? For example, are safe cribs provided for each infant, and does the program follow safe sleep guidelines?						
Is there a written discipline policy that explains how behavioral concerns are handled? Do discipline techniques included in the policy teach and guide children rather than punish them? For example, does the policy make it clear that there will be humiliating, or excluding children?						
Does the program feel warm and welcoming? Are the children happily engaged in activities?						
Do the adults seem to enjoy working with and caring for the children? Are they actively involved with the children and do they pay attention to the needs of each child?						
Have all adults working in the program had background checks, including fingerprinting?						
Have the adults in the program been trained on how to prevent child abuse and how to recognize and report the signs of abuse?						
Is the staff CPR certified? Do staff know how to respond to an allergic reaction? Is there a first aid kit available? Are the adults in the program trained in how to prevent injuries?						

Does the program have a clear, written plan to follow if a child is injured, sick, or lost?						
Is there a written plan for responding to emergencies and disasters such as fire or flooding? Does the program conduct regular fire drills?						

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About The Hive Education...

The Hive Education prides itself for offering the best learning environment for each and every child that attends any of our Learning Centers. We are proudly located in Southern New Mexico serving Santa Teresa, Sunland Park & Chaparral. Our 20 years plus experience, leadership and innovation has positioned us as the premier educators in the region.

Our Philosophy The Hive Education provides parents with peace of mind by giving children an exceptional education every fun-filled day in a place as nurturing as home. It is our number one goal to provide the kind of environment and the kind of influences that encourage all children to become creative, independent, responsible, well rounded, self-directed adults who can make decisions by themselves.

Our family of schools

BUMBLE BEE Learning Center

Brilliant Bee's Learning Center

NEW MEXICO CHILDREN FIRST LEARNING CENTER

BumbleBee is a five-star, full day learning center offering Daycare, Early Pre-k, Pre-k, & Afterschool programs. Our learning center offers age - appropriate and intellectually stimulating programs that focus on the growth and development of the child's essential skills, mental, physical (fine and gross motor), intellectual, social and emotionally.

At Brilliant Bees we capture each child's enthusiasm for exploration and learning by providing age-appropriate, child-initiated and teacher-directed activities in a safe, nurturing environment. Our environment is designed to stimulate creativity, cognitive growth, and social interaction. Our Core services include: Daycare, Early Pre-K, Pre-K & Afterschool programs.

In collaboration with La Clinica de Familia gives children the very best start in life with Early Head Start. Designed to nurture and support your child's physical, socio-emotional, and intellectual development, pregnant mothers can even benefit from these resources and services. In addition our facility has an afterschool program where kids relax in the Rattlesnake Lounge, finish their homework or socialize with their friends.

We at The Hive Education believe in the value of human diversity and their treatment of all people. Our desire is for excellence in meeting the needs of children and their families for nurturing, growth, developing relationships and understanding that our values and beliefs about children are deeply rooted in Early Childhood Education." - Daisy Lira

The Hive Education- Dedicated to care and education: Our Educational Programs. and our exclusive curricula enable our eachers to create personalized learning experiences, appropriate to every age group.

Infants (6 weeks - 1 years)

Our infant care program offers a nurturing and secure environment with lots of love and attention. It is designed to provide babies with a variety of skills to build confidence for further discovery, and encourage curiosity and exploration. The core goal of our infant care program is to provide your baby with love, care and an environment that encourages the development of natural curiosity.

Toddler (1-3 years)

Your toddler is making great developmental strides – and we're here to help! We channel your child's increasing energy and curiosity into fun learning activities and playtime. Our toddler program is based upon building and sustaining warm, trusting and responsive relationships between the children and the adults who care for them. This helps toddlers form a strong, positive sense of identity. At this age, children love to explore the world around them, and learn their place in it.

Preschool Program (3yr olds -4yr olds)

NM FOCUS® The Hive Education Learning Centers follows The New Mexico FOCUS® 4Connect, Ready Rosie, Kinder Musik, Allegra Learning Comprehensives, research-based and developmentally appropriate curriculums- that follow children's interests as they work together to explore, investigate, and make discoveries about the world around them

After School Program (5-12 years)

Each child has innate social, emotional, physical and intellectual capacities that can be developed self-paced learning and exploration, supporting individuation and allowing children to develop their own essential nature. Our approach to education and care is aligned with The Hive's philosophy.

To honor Diversity; Our curriculum provides an age appropriate introduction to different cultures, traditions, and rituals and celebrates diversity by recognizing and embracing a variety of ethnic backgrounds and traditions.

Meet our passionate, experienced teachers; see our exciting curriculum in action, and experience the loving, educationally rich environment that makes us special.

The Hive EDUCATION

Brilliant Bee's Learning Center

BUMBLE BEE Learning Center

NEW MEXICO CHILDREN FIRST LEARNING CENTER

Call us!

(575) 502-5054

www.thehiveeducation.com