



Parent's Guide to Choosing Child Care - Tip Sheet

Who Licenses Child Care Facilities?

The Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division, (CCLD) Child Care Program licenses child care facilities. As a condition of licensure, licensed facilities must comply with health and safety requirements when supervising children in care. The program protects the children through oversight centered around the prevention of violations of these requirements, compliance assistance and enforcement action.

Are There Laws Around Child Care Facilities?

Yes. Licensed child care facilities are required to meet baseline health and safety requirements e.g., background clearance, CPR/first aid, and fire clearances.

- [Health and Safety Code, Child Day Care Act](#)
- [California Code of Regulations \(CCR\), Title 22, Division 12](#)

Do Parents and Children Have Rights?

Yes. Parents' rights information is available at [Parents' Rights Form: PUB 393](#) or by watching the [Parents' Rights in Child Care](#) video. To learn more about children's rights, watch a quick video, [Children's Personal Rights in Child Care](#).

What are the Types of Licensed Child Care Facilities?

Child Care Facilities are less than 24-hour care, offered in residential settings e.g., a caregiver's own home or commercial settings and serve children from 0-18 years of age:

- [Child Care Centers](#)
- [Infants](#), ages 0-24 months
- [Preschool Children](#), ages two (2) years to and not yet enrolled in kindergarten or 1st grade
- [School-Age Children](#), enrolled in kindergarten or 1st grade on up. Non-Minor individuals may be served up to 22 years old, as defined by Health and Safety Code Section [1596.862](#)
- Centers for [Mildly Ill Children](#), serve children who are too ill to attend child care
- [Family Child Care Homes](#) serve children in a residential setting.

How Do I Know if a Child Care Facility is Licensed or if a Facility Has Complaints?

- View facility licensing information, inspection reports and complaint reports on the CCLD facility [Transparency Site](#) or by contacting a [Regional Office](#) to schedule time to review a provider's public file.
 - *Note: To file a complaint about a licensed child care facility, call 1-844-LET US NO / 1-844-(538-8766).*

Are There Resources to Help with Choosing a Licensed Child Care facility?

- A [Parent's Guide to Choosing Child Care](#) - also available in [other languages](#), helps in selecting child care settings.
- [Consumer Awareness Information \(LIC 9212\)](#) - key information for families on what to expect in choosing a Family Child Care Provider.
- [Mychildcare.ca.gov](#) – provides information on current licensed child care facilities in California.
- [Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies](#) - assist in financial and child care setting information.

Questions?

- Contact a CCLD [local Regional Office](#), or the [Child Care Advocate Program](#).