



Parent Link

Your Link to Finding Quality Child Care

Being a working or student parent is a real challenge. Exploring new child care options and making good decisions can be very time consuming and confusing. From rattles to report cards, toilet training to tantrums, highchairs to high school and everything in between, parents today have many decisions to make.

The latest research confirms that brain development during the first five years of life sets the stage for how children will think, learn and behave forever.

Choosing a child care provider is a decision best made by you

Child Care Links can not recommend specific child care providers.

The list of providers you received today are all licensed or registered by Kansas Department of Health & Environment.

Steps to Finding Quality Child Care

1. Review the enclosed referral list & Parent Link
2. Call providers to set up an appointment
3. Visit the facility and refer to the checklist for quality indicators

Tax Deductible Donation

Child Care Links is a non-profit agency designed to help parents with child care needs such as referrals and scholarships to help pay for child care. We rely upon donations from parents like you to help with financial support. Enclosed is a card. Please complete and return with your tax deductible donation. This will insure that our services will be here to help you again.

Thank you for your donation.



The right caregiver will develop a positive, loving relationship with your child

Be sure to visit every program you are considering.

Check us out on the web
www.childcarelink.org

Child Care Links
21 W. 2nd
Hutchinson, KS 67501
669-0291
childcarelinks@sbcglobal.net

Regulations

Registered family child care homes may have up to 6 children with no more than 3 under the age of 18 months.

Licensed family child care homes may have up to 10 children. Please see the chart below for age capacities.

Group licensed family child care homes may have up to 12 if a helper is present.

Center child/staff ratios can be checked with a licensing surveyor or on the internet.

If you have questions regarding child care licensing regulations please visit Kansas Department of Health and Environment at: http://www.kdheks.gov/bcclr/child_care.html

Please feel free to contact your local county licensing surveyor if you have any concerns or complaints regarding a child care provider or facility.

Barton County Health Dept.
 Connie Miller
 1300 Kansas Avenue
 Great Bend, KS 67530
 (620) 793-1902
 FAX (620) 793-1903
cmiller@bartoncounty.org

Kingman County Health Dept.
 Rosemary Boswell
 125 North Spruce
 Kingman, KS 67068
 (620)532-2221
 FAX (620) 532-1083
KCHD1@yahoo.com

County Licensing Surveyors

McPherson Health Surveyor
 Saline County Health Dept.
 Leigh Ann Montoy or Kathy Johnson
 125 West Elm
 Salina, KS 67401
 (785) 826-6600 ext. 107 or 108
 FAX (785) 826-6605
leighann.montoy@salhelp.org

Pawnee County Health Dept.
 Elaine Welch
 715 Broadway
 Larned, KS 67550
 (620) 285-6963
 FAX (620) 285-3246
elaine@pawnee.kscoxmail.com

Pratt County Health Dept.
 Debra McGraw/Cindy Autry
 912 South Main
 Pratt, KS 67124
 (620) 672-4135
 FAX (620) 672-1129
[no email](mailto:)

Reno County Health Dept.
 Nancy Gay
 209 West 2nd Street
 Hutchinson, KS 67501
 (620) 694-2900
 FAX (620) 694-2901
nancy.gay@renogov.com

Rice County Health Dept.
 Grace Lumpkins
 113 East 1st Street
 Lyons, KS 67554
 (620) 257-2171
 FAX (620) 257-7856
rchd@ly.kscoxmail.com

Stafford County Health Dept.
 Linda Hinkle
 601 East 1st Street
 St. John, KS 67578
 (620) 549-3504
 FAX (620) 549-6593
schd@stjohnks.net

The right caregiver will relate well to you and have values and attitudes that are similar to yours.

Watch the caregiver interact with the children

License Capacity			
Maximum Number of Children Under 18 Months	Maximum Number of Children 18 Months to Kindergarten Age	Kindergarten Age to Age 11	License Capacity
0	7	3	10
1	5	4	10
2	4	3	9
3	3	2	8



Health Insurance

All Kansans need and deserve good health care but not all Kansans have access to affordable family health insurance. HealthWave offers insurance coverage for up to 12 months at a time. Check to see if you qualify.
 1-800-792-4884
www.kansashealthwave.org
 or call us to request a brochure.

Prairie Star Health Center

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www.prairestarhealth.org

Physicals, Minor Procedures, Well Child Checks, Dental Services, Women Exams, Lab Services, Spanish Speaking Physician Assistant.
 Mon 8-6
 Tues-Thurs 8-8
 Fri 8-4
 1600 N Lorraine, Suite 110
 Hutchinson 663-8484

Quality Indicators for Evaluating a Child Care Provider

Finding the child care provider that works best for your family takes work. And it takes asking lots of questions, from the practical ones about hours and meals to the personal ones about discipline and toilet training. As you talk to providers, the most important question you must ask of yourself is “Will my child receive loving and careful attention?”

Caregivers

- Do the caregivers seem to really like children?
- Do the caregivers get down on each child’s level to speak to the child?
- Are the children greeted when they arrive?
- Are children’s needs quickly met even when things get busy?
- Are the caregivers trained in CPR, first aid, and early childhood education?
- Are the caregivers involved in continuing education programs?
- Does the program keep up with children’s changing interests?

- Will the caregivers always be ready to answer your questions?
- Will the caregivers tell you what your child is doing every day?
- Are parents’ ideas welcomed? Are there ways for you to get involved?
- Do the caregivers and children enjoy being together?
- Does the caregiver participate on the Child Care Food Program? If not encourage them to sign up.
- Are caregivers trained and experienced? (Ask to see their training certificates.)
- Have they participated in early childhood development classes?

Setting

- Is the atmosphere bright and pleasant?
- Is there a fenced-in outdoor play area with a variety of safe equipment?
- Can the caregivers see the entire playground at all times?
- Are there different areas for resting, quiet play and active play?
- Is there enough space for the children in all of these areas?
- Ask about their emergency plans for fire and tornado drills.

Activities

- Is there a daily balance of play time, story time, activity time and nap time?
- Are the activities right for each age group?
- Are there enough toys and learning activities for each age group?
- Are toys clean, safe and within reach of the children?

In General

- Do you agree with the discipline practices?
- Do you hear the sounds of happy children?
- Are children comforted when needed?
- Is the program licensed or regulated?
- Are surprise visits by parents encouraged?
- Will your child be happy there?

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Hourly Rate Survey

Family Child Care

	0-17 mo.	18 mo.-Kg	School Age
Barton	\$1.96	\$1.88	\$1.90
Kingman	\$2.27	\$1.91	\$1.98
McPherson	\$1.94	\$1.89	\$1.83
Pawnee	\$2.11	\$2.03	\$2.04
Pratt	\$2.67	\$2.29	\$2.07
Reno	\$2.23	\$2.03	\$1.99
Rice	\$2.00	\$1.79	\$1.67

Need Help Paying for Child Care?

SRS (Social & Rehabilitation Services) can help some families pay for child care. Call 1-888-369-4777. www.srskansas.org

If you are turned down by SRS and live in Reno or Rice County, Child Care Links may be able to help through the child care subsidy program we administer. Call 669-0291.

Birth to 5 Months

- Reacts to loud sound
- Turns head toward a sound source
- Watches your face when you speak
- Vocalizes pleasure and displeasure sounds (laughs, giggles, cries, or fusses)
- Makes noise when talked to

6 to 11 Months

- Understands “no-no”
- Babbles (says “ba-ba-ba” or “ma-ma-ma”)



- Tries to communicate by actions or gestures
- Tries to repeat your sounds

12 to 17 Months

- Attends to a book or toy for about two minutes
- Follows simple directions accompanied by gestures
- Answers simple questions nonverbally
- Points to objects, pictures, and family members
- Says two to three words to label a person or object
- Tries to imitate simple words

18-23 months

- Enjoys being read to
- Follows simple commands without gestures
- Points to simple body parts such as “nose”

- Understands simple verbs such as “eat” “sleep”
- Correctly pronounces most vowels and n, m, p, h, especially in the beginning of syllables and short words. Also begins to use other speech sounds
- Says 8 to 10 words (pronunciation may still be unclear)
- Asks for common foods by name

2-3 years

- Knows about 50 words at 24 months
- Knows some spatial concepts such as “in” “on”
- Knows pronouns such as “you” “me” “her”
- Knows descriptive words such as “big” “happy”
- Says around 40 words at 24 months
- Speech is becoming more accurate but may still leave off ending sounds. Strangers may not be able to understand much of what is said
- Answers simple questions

3-4 Years

- Groups objects such as foods, clothes, etc.
- Identifies colors
- Uses most speech sounds but may distort some of the more difficult sounds such as l, r, s, sh, ch, y, v, z, th. These sounds may not be fully mastered until age 7 or 8
- Uses consonants in the beginning, middle and ends of words. Some of the more difficult consonants may be distorted, but attempts to say them

4-5 Years

- Understands spatial concepts such as “behind” “next to”
- Understands complex questions



- Speech is understandable but makes mistakes pronouncing long, difficult, or complex words such as “hippopotamus”
- Says about 200-300 different words
- Uses some irregular past tense verbs such as “ran” “fell”
- Describes how to do things such as painting a picture
- Defines words
- Lists items that belong in a category such as animals, vehicles, etc.
- Answers “why” questions

5 Years

- Understands more than 2,000 words
- Understands time sequences (what happened first, second, third, etc.)
- Carries out a series of three directions
- Engages in conversation
- Understands rhyming
- Sentences can be 8 or more words in length
- Uses compound and complex sentences
- Describes objects
- Uses imagination to create

What should I do if my child's speech or language appears to be delayed?

You should talk to your family doctor if you have any concerns about your child's speech or language development. The above checklist should help you talk about your concerns.