Find Early Education & Care Programs in Santa Clara County

The **Santa Clara County Child Care Resource & Referral Program (R&R)** helps families find child care and early education programs that meet their needs. Many families combine the options below to fit their hours of need. Child care options vary by setting and other factors. You can use this resource to understand your child care options.

Birth-2 Years

Infant & Toddler Programs

Options:

- Early Head Start
- Licensed Centers (includes State-Funded Programs and Head Start)
- Licensed Family Homes
- Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care

3-4 Years

Preschool & TK Programs

Options:

- Licensed Centers (includes State-Funded Programs and Head Start)
- Licensed Family Homes
- Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care
- Transitional Kindergarten

UPK Universal PreKindergarten

STEPS TO SUCCESS
Enroll. Attend. Learn.

5+ Years

School-Age Programs

Options:

- Licensed Centers (includes State-Funded Programs and Head Start)
- Licensed Family Homes
- Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care
- Before and after-school programs
- K-12 enrollment

Help with Paying for Child Care

The R&R supports families with understanding the differences between child care payment programs and subsidized options. Families may contact the programs below to receive information about eligibility requirements. The R&R can help families receiving child care payment assistance find a program that best meets their needs.

Payment Programs	Subsidized Programs
• Choices for Children: (408) 297-3295 • GoKids, Inc: (408) 843-9000	For a list of subsidized childcare programs in Santa Clara County, visit: sccoe.to/subprograms

Santa Clara County Office of Education

(see reverse)

Types of Programs

Licensed Programs

Licensed programs are operated in centers or family homes and must meet licensing requirements set by the California Department of Social Services. These include free and low-cost programs such as Head Start and the California State Preschool Program.

License-Exempt Programs

License-exempt programs can operate legally without a license. They may provide services through homes, centers, city programs, parent co-ops, before and after school programs run by schools, and more. License-exempt providers are required to clear a criminal background check.

School Programs

School-operated programs are run within a school. Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Kindergarten programs are free and open to all regardless of immigration status. Schools may also offer preschool programs that are low-cost or fee-based. To find your school district, visit: sccoe.to/MySchoolDistrict

Contact Us to Find Care

Childcare Resource & Referral

The **Santa Clara County Childcare Resource & Referral (R&R) Program** provides every family with information to find high quality child care and preschool programs that meets their specific needs.

The R&R can help families with:

- Understanding all program options
- Finding a combination of care choices that work for their individual needs, including drop-in care
- Obtaining a list of referrals
- Searching for providers with experience and training serving children with a disability
- Understanding how to get help with paying for care

Additional Resources

Quality Care Checklist
Questions to ask providers as you search for care sccoe.to/qualitycarechecklist

Santa Clara County Childcare Portal
Allows families to immediately find licensed childcare and Pre-K programs throughout Santa Clara County 24 hours a day.

- Access contact information for nearly 2,000 providers
- Search by program characteristics
- Learn about getting help with paying for care
- Free accounts for families who want to save their search results

www.childcarescc.org

Childcare Resource & Referral
SERVING SANTA CLARA COUNTY

For more information:
childcarescc@sccoe.org | 669-212-KIDS (5437) | www.childcarescc.org

Quality Child Care Check List

Choosing who cares for your child is one of the most important decisions you'll make. This check list can help you look for quality when choosing child care.

Why QUALITY MATTERS

Children in high quality early learning programs:

- Are better prepared for kindergarten,
- Get better grades in reading and in math,
- Are more likely to graduate from high school,
- Get higher paying jobs.

High Quality Programs Offer:

- Small group size (no more than 3 infants, 4 toddlers or 8 preschoolers per adult)
- Fun learning activities and lessons
- Ongoing training for their teachers
- Clean and friendly childcare spaces
- Meaningful interactions between staff and children
- Supportive, inclusive programs that help a diverse group of families thrive.

If possible, visit several providers, including centers and home-based programs to spend time watching what happens in the program and to ask lots of questions. Use this checklist to help find a high-quality program that will meet the needs of your family and child.

Questions to Ask

- ☐ Is the program licensed by the state?
- ☐ Does the program participate in QUALITY MATTERS...a STRONG START for kids?
- ☐ What is your ratio of teachers to children and your maximum group size?
- ☐ How are activities and lessons planned?
- ☐ How long have the teachers been working here? How long have they worked with children? Do they do training like college coursework or workshops?
- ☐ How do you measure children's development?
- ☐ How do you keep families informed about your program and their children's progress? How can parents be involved?
- ☐ How does the program support children with challenging behaviors?
- ☐ How do you support children with disabilities?
- ☐ Do you ever take children on outings?
- ☐ Is the daily routine shared with children through pictures and songs?
- ☐ How does the program celebrate different cultures?

Things to Ask For

- ☐ A parent handbook
- ☐ The enrollment agreement
- ☐ Fees, days and hours of operation, menus, health and discipline policies, daily schedule, and disaster plan
- ☐ References from other parents

(continued on reverse)

STRONG START Santa Clara County Office of Education

FIRST 5 SANTA CLARA COUNTY

QUALITY MATTERS a STRONG START for kids SANTA CLARA COUNTY

First Impressions

- ☐ Does the program feel warm and welcoming to your family?
- ☐ Are the children happily engaged in activities?
- ☐ Do the adults seem to enjoy working with and caring for the children? Are they interacting with the children, and do they pay attention to the needs of each child?
- ☐ Are the children playing with each other?
- ☐ Are the childcare spaces clean and organized?
- ☐ Is there a quiet area?
- ☐ Do you think your child will want to spend their day here?

For referrals to childcare and preschool programs, or to find resources on how to support your child's learning and development, visit the Santa Clara County Office of Education childcare portal at www.childcarescc.org or call (669) 212-KIDS (5437).

For information about FIRST 5 Santa Clara County programs for families with young children, visit www.first5parents.org.

The Inclusion Collaborative WarmLine (available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese) offers support and strategies to parents and teachers who are concerned about a child's development or behavior at (408) 453-6651.

Notes: