



Early Learning Programs in Santa Clara County

90% of a child's brain develops by age 5. Regularly attending early learning programs prepares children to be fully ready for kindergarten. The **Santa Clara County Office of Education** has resources to help families and caregivers find programs that meet their needs.

Programs	California State Preschool Program (CSPP)	Head Start	Private Centers and Homes*	Transitional Kindergarten
Ages	3 and 4 year olds	3 and 4 year olds	Birth to 12	4 year olds
Schedule	Full-day options available	Full-day options available	Full-day options available	Full-day options available
Cost	Free or low-cost, based on family income and other factors	Free, based on family income	Varies by provider, subsidized vouchers may be available	Free to all
Eligibility	Must meet eligibility criteria	Must meet eligibility criteria	N/A	Open to all. Part of public school system

*Centers and family homes can be licensed or license-exempt

(Adapted from CDE UPK Materials)

California State Preschool, Head Start, and Transitional Kindergarten are required to include an educational component that is developmentally appropriate and follows research-based standards/foundations. Private providers may use various educational practices. Some private providers use the same educational practices that are used by state-funded programs.

The **Quality Care Checklist** provides a list of questions that families can ask as they search for programs. Use the QR code to download the checklist.



Find a program

The **Santa Clara County Childcare Resource & Referral (R&R) Program** provides free information to families about all program options below. The R&R does not administer programs.

California State Preschool	Contact the Santa Clara County R&R Program for locations and contact information Phone: 669-212-5437 Email: childcarescc@sccoe.org Web: www.childcarescc.org
Head Start	Contact the Santa Clara County Office of Education, Early Learning Services Department Phone: 408-453-6900 Email: HSReceptionist@sccoe.org Web: https://sccoe.to/ELS
Private Centers and Homes	Contact the Santa Clara County R&R Program for locations and contact information Phone: 669-212-5437 Email: childcarescc@sccoe.org Web: www.childcarescc.org
Transitional Kindergarten	Visit your school district's enrollment webpage: https://sccoe.to/MySchoolDistrict

Santa Clara County Childcare Portal

The Santa Clara County Childcare Portal is an online search tool that allows families to immediately find licensed childcare and Pre-K programs throughout Santa Clara County. The website is managed by the **Santa Clara County Office of Education's Childcare Resource & Referral Program**.

- 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



Early Learning Videos

Visit the Santa Clara County Office of Education's early learning YouTube playlist to find answers to frequently asked questions about early learning programs.



Programs & Supports for Children with Disabilities

The **Inclusion Collaborative** offers free supports, resources, and referrals for both educators and families who serve children with disabilities and other needs.

Contact Us:

408-453-6651

inclusionwarmline@sccoe.org

www.inclusioncollaborative.org

STEPS TO SUCCESS
Enroll. Attend. Learn.

 **Childcare Resource & Referral**
SERVING SANTA CLARA COUNTY


INCLUSION COLLABORATIVE

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)

