



## Child Care 101

If you are looking for child care here is some information that might be helpful. There are several different classifications of child care available. It is helpful to understand the different options, so that you can make the best choice for your family.

### Home Based Care

**Six or Fewer Childcare Home** – A home child care provider who is unlicensed is limited to caring for up to 6 children at one time. This provider can have a maximum of 3 children under the age of 2 years. Children living in the home who are eligible for enrollment in a public kindergarten, elementary, or high school shall not be considered in the total number of children being cared for.

If this child care provider is registered with the State of Missouri to receive subsidy payments, she/he is considered a Registered Child Care Provider. The Provider must meet minimal health and safety requirements, pass a background screening and be CPR/First Aid certified. The Provider will also receive an annual monitoring visit.

**License Childcare Home** - A family child care home provider who is licensed by the State of Missouri is limited to 10 children for any part of a 24-hour day. Staff to child ratios are in place. Ratios are set based on the ages and number of children in care, but a licensed home childcare provider should have no more than 10 children at any given time. A family home provider is required to pass background screenings, be CPR/First Aid certified, receive 12 clock hours of training annually, pass fire and sanitation inspections and will receive two visits from licensing per year. The provider's license should be posted and current.

A licensed childcare home provider can be contracted with the State of Missouri to receive subsidy payments for providing care to families who qualify.

**A child care provider who is not licensed, contracted or registered with the State of Missouri will not receive any type of monitoring visits or oversight.**

**License Childcare Group Home** – A group child care home is a child care program where care is given by a person licensed to provide care not to exceed 20 children for any part of the 24-hour day. Child/staff ratios are in place since one person cannot care for 20 children alone. A group child care home is in a location separate from the providers permanent residence or separate from the provider's living quarters. A licensed group home is inspected annually and is under very similar requirement listed above for a licensed home provider.

### Center Based Care

There are several different types of Center-Based Child Care programs. All center based child care programs will have some regulations, inspections, monitoring, etc. however, the extent of oversight will depend on several factors. Center based care could be a:

- **Licensed Child Care Facility**
- **License-Exempt Child Care Facility receiving state subsidy for providing care – Church based program or school based.**
- **License Exempt Child Care Facility – Church based or School based program**

For more information regarding regulations, staff/child ratios, inspections, staff training and requirements go to <http://dese.mo.gov/childhood>.