

# Choice Not Chance

You have the power to choose the person who will care for your child — while you work and when you play. It's an important decision.

## Community Connection for

**Child Care** wants to make that choice a little easier. Let us provide referrals to licensed Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers - based on where you live, where you work, and the specific child care needs of your family.

It is our intent to *only* make referrals, and not recommend a particular child care setting over any other. Choosing a Provider to meet the needs of your family is your responsibility and privilege. This brochure provides the guidelines to help you *choose carefully*.

Call *Community Care Licensing* to inspect the records of any licensed child care home or center you may be interested in.

*It's your right.*

Have the provider's facility number handy and call 1-559-243-4588.

*A program operated by the  
Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office,  
Larry E. Reider, Superintendent.*

Community Connection for Child Care  
2000 24th Street, Suite 100  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
1-877-861-5200



# Child Care Choices

COMMUNITY



CONNECTION  
FOR CHILD CARE

*Make the Connection to...*  
**Quality Child Care.**

## *Qualifications and References*

- ♥ Ask the provider why they are qualified to care for your child.
- ♥ Ask for a list of references. Call the references and talk to them.
- ♥ Ask if he/she has attended any special training sessions or holds any certificates such as CPR, First Aid, Early Childhood Education.

## *Physical Layout. Emphasis: SAFETY!*

- ♥ Is it the kind of place you want your child to be in?
- ♥ Is there a safe outside play area?
- ♥ Are there dangerous stairs? Are they equipped with gates?
- ♥ Does the provider have liability insurance?
- ♥ Is the place neat and clean?
- ♥ Is the lighting adequate?
- ♥ Are unused electrical outlets plugged?
- ♥ Are poisons stored securely out of the reach
- ♥ Are there sharp objects or other hazards?
- ♥ Are the toilets and washrooms adequate?
- ♥ Are wood stoves barricaded when in use?
- ♥ Are pools and ponds adequately fenced?



## *Play, Toys, Activities & Naps!*

- ♥ Are there plenty of good toys suitable for your child? Are they broken or dangerous?
- ♥ What is the policy on TV? Be sure that the TV doesn't substitute for personal care.
- ♥ Are there places to take walks?
- ♥ Are there tricycles and other outside play equipment?
- ♥ Are there educational materials and art supplies such as clay, paint, puzzles, books & musical instruments?
- ♥ Is there a place for naps? Are there cribs for infants?
- ♥ Who provides towels and blankets?
- ♥ Is there a regular schedule of activities?

## *Travel, Emergencies, Food & Numbers*

- ♥ Will the Provider have your permission to take your child places in a car or van?
- ♥ If so, ask to see the vehicle.
- ♥ Is the vehicle in good repair?
- ♥ Are there seatbelts? Car seats for younger children?
- ♥ Are the drivers insured?
- ♥ Is the Provider trained in first aid and CPR?
- ♥ What are their general emergency procedures?
- ♥ Do they have regular fire drills?
- ♥ Are emergency numbers clearly posted by the telephone?
- ♥ What are the Provider's emergency plans in case of a disaster?
- ♥ If the Provider is ill or needs to attend to business, who will watch the children?

- ♥ Make sure there are adequate snacks and meals served during the hours your child is present in the facility.
- ♥ Ask to see a typical meal or menu.
- ♥ Agree on which foods you will provide, if any. Discuss any special diet your child may need.

- ♥ How many children, including their own, will the Provider be caring for?
- ♥ In a Family/Child Care home, there can be a total of 8 children . . . with no more than 2 under the age of two, or 4 under two years - with no other children. If licensed for 12 -14, an assistant is necessary.
- ♥ Are there other children your own child's age?

## *Philosophy of Child Care and Discipline*

- ♥ Observe how the Provider communicates with the children.
- ♥ Is the atmosphere positive and loving?
- ♥ Is the Provider's philosophy close to your own?
- ♥ Will your child get mixed messages?
- ♥ Limits on behavior should be clear, firm and consistently applied.

- ♥ Discipline should not be enforced through teasing, shaming, shouting or physical abuse.
- ♥ Discuss methods of discipline with the Provider and agree on a policy. State regulations prohibit corporal punishment.

## *Payment*

- ♥ How much do they charge?
- ♥ How does it compare with the going rate in your community?
- ♥ Have they increased rates recently?
- ♥ Do they plan to increase rates in the near future?
- ♥ When is pay expected? Will you pay in advance or later?
- ♥ How often will you pay?
- ♥ Will you be expected to pay if your child is absent?
- ♥ Are there any late charges or registration fees?

## *Your Job*

- ♥ Give the Provider addresses and phone numbers where you can be reached at all times.
- ♥ Leave the number of another person who has agreed to be called if you're not available.
- ♥ Leave the number of a doctor or someone else who can be called in case of a medical emergency.
- ♥ Have your child's up-to-date immunization records with you.
- ♥ Make your payments ON TIME.
- ♥ Tell your Provider about any allergies, physical problems or other special needs of your child.
- ♥ How ill can your child be and still come to day care? Agree on a policy. Have a plan if your child is too ill to attend.
- ♥ Arrange regular conferences with your Provider. Communicate!
- ♥ Drop in now and then, especially if your child is too young to tell you how things are going.
- ♥ Call **Community Care Licensing** at 1-559-243-4588 and ask to see the file of a provider you are considering. Be sure to get the facility number, from the provider, before you make the call.

