



**ECPAC**  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
PARTNERSHIP  
OF ADAMS COUNTY

# ARE YOU EXPECTING OR HAVE A NEW BABY?

You may be thinking about  
**child care** options!



## What you need to know:

**Quality child care** in the early years **helps create a strong foundation** for children's lifelong success! Tour programs before making a decision.

Families in Colorado have **choices** when it comes to child care and there are **resources** to help you in all the next steps!

Many programs have **waitlists of 6-18 months** so it is important to start looking before you are ready to have your child in child care.

## What should you look for when determining the right fit?

The Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) has developed **checklists** for you to make sure the program is safe and will provide quality care to support your child's early learning and development. Visit the CDEC's website:

## What type of childcare will be best for you and your family?



### Family Child Care Home

A licensed Family Child Care Home can care for up to 6 children with no more than 2 children under 18 months. There are other types of Family Child Care Home licenses with different capacities. The license should be posted in the home.



### Child Care Center

A Child Care Center license is required when caring for 5 or more children. The care takes place in a dedicated building. The license should be posted to show families the ages and number of children the program is licensed for.



### License-Exempt Child Care

License-exempt child care includes care provided by a family member, friend or neighbor. Can care for up to 4 unrelated children with no more than 2 children under the age of 2. Can care for more than 4 children if children are siblings from the same family.

## How do you get started?

An on-line platform ([coloradoshines.com/search](https://coloradoshines.com/search)) is available to help you **find licensed child care** (Centers and Family Child Care Homes). The search results show what ages the program serves, languages spoken, if the program can support children with special needs, if the program accepts the **Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP)**, and other information.

If you want, click on the “**View Details**” button to review the program’s inspection reports and view any complaints filed against the program.

If you find that it is challenging to get the information you need, **give us a call or email us** and one of our Family Support Specialists can help! Call (720) 523-4775 or email [fss@ecpac.org](mailto:fss@ecpac.org)

If your child has **special health care or developmental needs**, or you want **some additional assistance**, you can also **call 211** to receive support in finding a program that can best support your child’s needs.

## What if programs have waitlists?

Because some programs have long waitlists it is important to start early before you are ready to have your child in care to give you more time to find a program that meets your needs and preferences. Ask programs about their waitlist policies and the process. You can be on more than one waitlist and know that some programs charge you to be on the waitlist. You may not get your first care choice so be open to other care options that can provide you with what you need.

## How much does childcare cost?

Childcare can feel very costly for families as programs have high staff costs to ensure safety and quality.

It is important to find out early the costs of different programs so you can prepare. It is free to call and ask programs about their rates and their care options!

If you think you may qualify for the **Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP)** based on your income and the fact that you are working or going to school – the Adams County CCCAP website has information about how to apply and if you feel stuck – there are people available to help! **Learn more about CCCAP with QR** or give us a call or send us an email.



Additional  
information to  
support your  
child’s growth and  
development



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