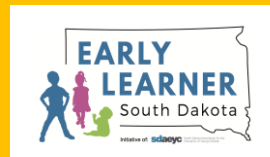


# Tips, Resources & Definitions

## The A-B-C's for Busy Parents

December 2023



### Steps to Choosing Safe & Healthy Child Care

Three key steps to finding quality child care.

#### 1. Look:

Visit the child care programs you are considering. Observe the environment and the health & safety procedures followed by the providers. Notice the number of children that each adult is responsible to supervise.

#### 2. Check:

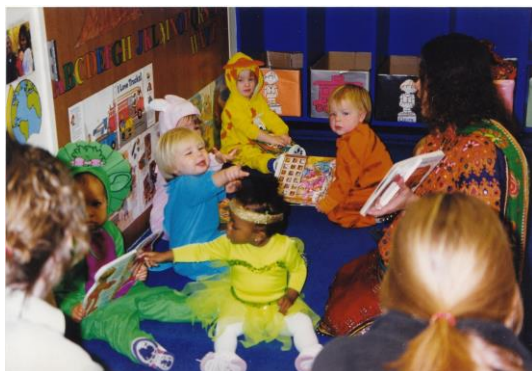
Are children supervised at all times? Are staff interacting with the children and are positive behavior guidance techniques used? Is the outdoor play area safe? Is there a plan to follow if a child is injured, sick, or lost? Are nutritious foods served?

#### 3. Ask:

Have the adults been trained to care for children? Is there always someone present who has current CPR and first-aid training? Are the adults continuing to receive training on caring for children? Have staff passed criminal history background checks? Has the program been inspected by the licensing agency within the last 12 months? Will you be given a copy of the program's policies?

### Parent Resources:

- Download and print the [Choosing Child Care Booklet](#) from the SD Department of Social Services as a guide for questions to ask when looking at child care programs.



### South Dakota Child Care Definitions

**There are three types of regulated (registered and licensed) programs in South Dakota.**

- **Licensed Child Care Programs.** Day Care Centers and Group Family Day Care Homes are licensed to provide group care for 13 or more children in a residence or center.
- **Registered Care.** Registered Family Day Care Homes provide home-based care for 12 or fewer children.
- **Licensed Before & After School Care programs.** Licensed Before & After School Care programs serve only school-age children and may be providing care for either part of a day or full-time during school breaks.

### License Exempt Child Care

There are two types of unregulated providers.

- Unregulated family day care (up to 12 children in care)
- Relative child care providers

Unregulated Family Day Care providers have the option of being registered with the Department of Social Services, but are not able to receive child care assistance payments or other federal funds unless they become registered.

Unregulated providers are not required to meet any federal or state standards.

### Additional information:

<https://dss.sd.gov/childcare/licensing/>