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**Employee Child Care Guide**

**Child Care Tips and Resources**

**Need Help Finding Child Care?**

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#### Three easy ways to find child care in South Dakota:

#### Call 2-1-1

#### [Request email for child care provider options](https://helplinecenter.jotform.com/form/202174580429051) (through SD’s Child Care Helpline)

#### [Search the Child Care Helpline’s database](https://stage.worklifesystems.com/parent/44)

Choosing child care is one of the most important decisions parents make for children. In partnership with the South Dakota Department of Social Services, the South Dakota [Early Childhood Enrichment (ECE) system](https://sdece.org/) and the Helpline Center, the [Child Care Helpline](https://www.helplinecenter.org/support-programs/child-care-resources/) is a resource and referral program serving all families seeking care to child care providers in South Dakota.

* Need help finding child care for a special needs child?
* Need help in finding child care during non-traditional hours (like evenings or weekends)?
* Looking for a Pre-K program, summer camp or, after-school program?

[Contact the Child Care Helpline today](https://www.helplinecenter.org/support-programs/child-care-resources/)! Staff work with families to understand their needs and desires, and to help parents make informed decisions. Let experts help you today!

**Are you taking advantage of federal tax benefits to help make child care more affordable?**

* There is a federal tax credit for child care expenses that allows a modest credit against individual/family taxes owed.
* There is a business employee benefit that enables employees to set-aside money for child care tax-free that can be used to reimburse some child care expenses.

**Need help affording the cost of child care?**

For lower wage families, child care subsidies are available based on family income. To find out more about the South Dakota [Child Care Assistance Program](https://dss.sd.gov/childcare/childcareassistance/) that helps families afford quality child care, check out the [child care assistance web page](https://dss.sd.gov/childcare/childcareassistance/) under South Dakota’s Department of Social Services. Eligible families can earn up to 209% of the federal poverty level and still potentially qualify for child care subsidies. Families with monthly income up to $3,434 for a family of two, $4,330 for a family of three, $5,225 for a family of four, and $6,120 for a family of five may be eligible for a subsidy to help make child care more affordable. For more information about child care assistance eligibility: <https://dss.sd.gov/childcare/childcareassistance/eligible.aspx>

For more information about the Child Care Assistance Program: <https://dss.sd.gov/childcare/childcareassistance/>

To apply for child care assistance: <https://dss.sd.gov/childcare/childcareassistance/apply.aspx>

**Looking for Child Care?**

**Download this** [**child care booklet**](https://dss.sd.gov/formsandpubs/docs/CCS/choosingchildcareinSD.pdf?nc968) **from the SD Department of Social Services**

**Download this** [**list of questions**](https://www.helplinecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/HLCCC-Interview-Sheet-1.pdf?nc784) **to ask child care providers when searching for care.**