

Boosting Your Child Care Vocab...

Tips, Resources & Definitions

The A-B-C's for Busy Parents

May 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:

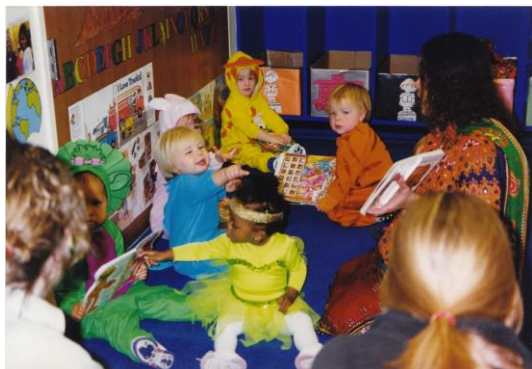
Are children supervised at all times? Are staff interacting with the children and are positive behavior guidance techniques used? Is the outdoor play area safe? Is there a plan to follow if a child is injured, sick, or lost? Are nutritious foods served?

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 [Idaho Stars child care checklist](#) as a guide.



Child Care Definitions

Licensed – An Idaho State child care license is required for all programs with 7 or more children enrolled and who receive compensation for providing care, including home-based programs serving 7 or more children. The Department of Health and Welfare oversees licensing.

Exempt/Exemptions to Licensure – The following are exempt from State child care licensing:

- Child care facilities licensed by a city or county, not requiring state licensing;
- Occasional or irregular care of a relative's, neighbor's, or friend's child(ren) by a person who is not normally in the business of child care;
- Providing care for children who are related to you within the second degree of relationship (father, mother, step-father, step-mother, grandparents and their spouses, uncles and aunts and their spouses, first cousins and their spouses, nephews and nieces and their spouses, brother and sisters and their spouses);
- Occasional care provided exclusively for children of parents who are simultaneously in the same building;
- Operation of a private school or religious school for educational purposes for children over four years of age, or a religious kindergarten;
- Operation of day camps, programs, and religious schools for less than twelve (12) weeks during a calendar year or not more often than once a week.

City/County Requirements – Some cities or counties in Idaho have specific requirements for operating a daycare or child care program that are separate from the state licensing requirements. Some of these cities or counties have included additional licensing requirements such as annual background checks or increased training requirements. Some local ordinances may require a license despite meeting the state's exemption criteria. See [this list](#) for city/county requirements.