

Child Care OPTIONS

Licensed Child Care Centres vary in the number and ages of the children they serve. Centres are licensed by the Province of Ontario and must meet standards that ensure that the programs are safe, properly staffed and equipped to provide activities that will foster a child's development and good health.

The license is posted at each centre and you can get information on the license on the Ontario Licensed Child Care website at www.ontario.ca/ONT/portal51/licensedchildcare.

Some child care centres also offer part-time care and others offer French Language or Aboriginal child care programs. Some conditions for admission may apply.

Licensed Home Child Care is provided by licensed agencies. They offer early learning and care, in approved homes, for children from 0 to 12 years. While the hours of care available vary from home to home, licensed home child care can meet the needs of families who work shifts or who need part-time, weekend or overnight care.

Home child care providers can only care for five children at one time, so the smaller setting is often preferred by parents of infants and is well-suited for children with special needs who may require more guidance and support.

Nursery Schools offer preschool children 2 to 5 years of age with an introductory learning experience, either in the morning or afternoon.

Specialized Nursery Schools offer a supportive, integrated half-time child care program for preschool children with special needs. These programs have specially trained staff and may have other supports available, such as occupational therapy and speech therapy.



School-age Child Care offers programs for children 6 to 12 years of age who spend most of their day in elementary school. These programs operate at various times, including before and after school, with some offering a lunch program. Many school-age programs offer full-day programs on professional development days, school holidays and summer vacation.

After-School and Recreation Care (ARC) programs are unlicensed programs for children aged 6 to 12 years offered by Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation. ARC programs operate from September to June, Monday to Friday from school closing to 6 p.m. ARC programs include a variety of activities such as sports, homework help, games, drama, arts and crafts and outdoor play.

For a list of current program locations visit the ARC website at:

www.toronto.ca/parks/after-school-recreation.htm

or contact the ARC Registration Hotline at **416-338-2512** to register.

Financial ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance may be available for a variety of programs for those who qualify. Call the Children's Services **KIDSLINE** at **416-392-KIDS (416-392-5437)** for more information on financial assistance.

Other EARLY LEARNING and CARE SERVICES

Support for Children with Special Needs

The City of Toronto believes that every child belongs. We are committed to an inclusive child care system that promotes positive and healthy environments for all children. To ensure the inclusion of every child who needs extra support, Toronto Children's Services, with its community partners, provides enhanced services to children, their families, staff and providers in licensed child care programs.

Family Resource Centres

Family resource programs offer a range of services that support parents and caregivers in their caregiver role, including playgroups, drop-ins, resources, toy lending libraries, workshops and child care registries, etc. For the address and phone number of the family resource programs in your neighbourhood, go to: www.toronto.ca/children/wardreports.htm

For more information, contact:

Toronto Children's Services

416-392-KIDS (416-392-5437)

or

www.toronto.ca/children

e-mail: childcare@toronto.ca

TTY users can call **416-338-1160**



Helping YOU FIND Quality CHILD Care

DO YOU...

- Need help finding quality child care?
- Want to learn about quality child care options?
- Want to know the quality rating of a child care centre?
- Need help with the cost of child care?

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 **TORONTO**

 **Children's
Services**



CHOOSING a Child Care PROGRAM

Whether you need child care because you are working or attending school, need full-time or part-time care, or you are looking for a nursery school or an early learning experience for your child — Children's Services can help.

At Toronto Children's Services, kids and quality matter. Studies show that children benefit from quality child care experiences. We promote equitable access to high quality licensed child care for children 0-9 years of age and are committed to supporting you in finding the child care that best meets your needs.

Toronto Children's Services website at: www.toronto.ca/children has two tools that will help you find the right child care for your child.

1) A Parent's Guide to Licensed Child Care in Toronto

This guide will give you information on what licensed child care is, what is a license, and tips on choosing a quality child care program for your child. Look for the checklist at the back of the booklet that you can take on a visit to a child care program. You can download a copy of the checklist at www.toronto.ca/children/guide.htm.

Not all child care centres are the same and the services they provide may vary. We encourage you to visit a number of child care centres and to contact home child care agencies in your area to ensure that you find the program that best meets your needs.



2) Toronto Operating Criteria Results

Child care programs that have a service contract for fee subsidy with Children's Services are assessed using the Toronto Operating Criteria. The Toronto Operating Criteria is a set of quality standards used by Children's Services staff annually to determine the quality of each age group on a variety of areas, including health and safety, nutrition, programming, etc. The quality ratings for all child care centres with a fee subsidy contract are on our website at www.toronto.ca/children



Toronto Children's Services is here to answer these questions and to help you find the quality child care you need for your child. This brochure contains information and resources to assist you and your family in finding the child care you need.

The Children's Services website, at www.toronto.ca/children, offers families with young children:

- A registry of over 900 licensed child care centres and home child care agencies operating throughout the city. A child care finder is available that provides maps and listings of licensed child care in Toronto.
- The quality rating of all child care centres with a service contract for fee subsidy. Children's Services rates these programs using a set of quality standards.
- Financial assistance with the cost of child care to eligible families. A booklet "Child Care Fee Subsidy: What you should know" is available online to help you find out if you are eligible and how to apply.
- Assistance in the placement and care of children with special needs. The online section, "Every Child Belongs," provides a registry of programs, resources and options available to you and your family.
- A registry of family resource programs that enhance child development and provide support to families through drop-in programs, playgroups, resource lending libraries and workshops. These can be found online under Family Resource programs on our website.



Helping YOU
FIND
Quality
CHILD
Care