## Valley Oak Children's Services

# Choosing Child Care—5 Steps to Finding Care



### **Be Informed**

- Contact your local Resource and Referral agency. (www.rrnetwork.org under family service)
- Contact your regional state CCL office which licenses child care (for compliant information).
- · Ask relatives, friends, and neighbors.
- Check the newspaper and community bulletin boards.
- Oliver's Law: as a parent, you have the right to get information about any substantiated or inconclusive complaints about a child care provider that you select for you child. That information is public and you can get it by calling the local licensing office.

Community Care Licensing at 1-844-538-8267

Set up an interview with the potential provider.

At the interview: Look, Count, Ask, and Listen



### Look

- Is the facility safe, comfortable, and clean?
- Is there a quiet place for naps?
- Is the provider responsive to child's needs?
- Are there a variety of toys to play with?
- Is there a sanitary diaper changing area?
- Is the kitchen clean and sanitary?
- How do the children interact with each other?









#### Count

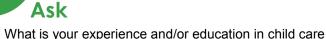
- Are there the correct number of adults per child?
- How many infants are in care?
- Are you comfortable with the adult:child ratio?



#### Listen

- To the answers that are given (take notes).
- To the noise level of the room.
- For joyful noise from the children.
- For a respectful attitude towards the kids.
- To the feelings you have.
- To any concerns you might have.
- To any concerns your child might have.





- and child development?
- What is your discipline philosophy?
- What kinds of things do you do to help a new child transition into care?
- What do you do when a child cries?
- How would you react if you saw my child bite another?
- How long have you been doing child care?
- Can I visit my child whenever I want?
- What is your plan for an emergency?
- What do you charge and what does that include?
- Do you have a contract?







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### WHAT ARE YOUR CHILD CARE OPTIONS?

	Federal and State Funded Child Care Center	Privately-Owned Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes (FCCH)	License Exempt Providers (Family/Friend/Neighbor)
Program	<ul> <li>Prepares children to succeed in school (e.g. Head Start, Early Head State, State Preschool, General Child Care—Family Child Care Home Education Networks)</li> <li>Provides child care subsidies that help families pay for services that are based on family eligibility</li> <li>Providers educational component</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Centers care for children in larger classroom settings and children are separated by age groups</li> <li>FCCH cares for children in smaller groups out of their homes with no more than 14 children depending on their license capacity</li> <li>Family pays full cost of care unless they receive subsidy</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>May be a family member, friend or neighbor; may also include some school-age centers and summer camps</li> <li>Provides a family-friendly setting that can support parents' values and culture</li> <li>Family pays full cost of care unless they receive subsidy</li> </ul>
Quality	<ul> <li>Participates in programs and trainings that improve or maintain the quality of care</li> <li>Required to document and inform parents of child's growth and development</li> <li>Follows State Licensing regulations, Health &amp; Safety standards and specific contract regulations</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Many participate in programs that improve or maintain the quality of care</li> <li>May attend professional development workshops and/ or trainings</li> <li>Follows State Licensing regulations and Health &amp; Safety standards</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Will vary based on education, experience and training of person caring for the child</li> <li>Parents take sole responsibility for ensuring the quality of their child's care</li> <li>There are no licensing or Healthy &amp; Safety standards unless it is a school-age center</li> </ul>
Activities	Must provide educational activities that are developmentally, culturally and linguistically appropriate for the ages of children served	<ul> <li>Will vary based on provider education, experience and training</li> <li>Must provide safe toys, play equipment and materials</li> </ul>	Will vary based on provider education, experience and training     May or may not offer regular activities
Staff	<ul> <li>Must have college education specific to the type of program operated and ongoing professional development training</li> <li>Must have child abuse and criminal background clearances</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>May have college education and may attend ongoing professional development training and classes</li> <li>Must have child abuse and criminal background clearances</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>No educational requirements needed but may attend workshops and/or training</li> <li>Must complete criminal background clearances unless care is by the grandparent, aunt or uncle of the child</li> </ul>
Hours	May offer full-day and/or part-day child care	Most are open between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.; and offer full-day and part-day some may operate during non- traditional hours, (i.e. overnight; weekends or 24 hours)	May provide the most flexible hours to meet the parent's need for child care     Hours depend on the provider selected
Monitored	<ul> <li>Inspected by Community Care Licensing (530) 895-5033</li> <li>Reviewed by Federal &amp; State Auditors</li> </ul>	Inspected by Community Care Licensing (530) 895-5033	No inspections

