

# Valley Oak Children's Services

## Choosing Child Care—5 Steps to Finding Care

# 1

### Be Informed

- Contact your local Resource and Referral agency. ([www.rrnetwork.org](http://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 your 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**



# 2

### 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?



# 3

### Count

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

# 4

### Ask

- What is your experience and/or education in child care 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?



# 5

### 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.



Contact **Valley Oak Children's Services** for more information

3120 Cohasset Road Suite 6 Chico, CA 95973 (530) 895-3572 Outside Chico area 1-800-345-VOCS

[www.valleyoakchildren.org](http://www.valleyoakchildren.org)



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## WHAT ARE YOUR CHILD CARE OPTIONS?

	<b>Federal and State Funded Child Care Center</b>	<b>Privately-Owned Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes (FCCH)</b>	<b>License Exempt Providers (Family/Friend/Neighbor)</b>
<b>Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 style="list-style-type: none"> <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 style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>Quality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 style="list-style-type: none"> <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 style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must provide educational activities that are developmentally, culturally and linguistically appropriate for the ages of children served</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will vary based on provider education, experience and training</li> <li>Must provide safe toys, play equipment and materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will vary based on provider education, experience and training</li> <li>May or may not offer regular activities</li> </ul>
<b>Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 style="list-style-type: none"> <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 style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>Hours</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May offer full-day and/or part-day child care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May provide the most flexible hours to meet the parent's need for child care</li> <li>Hours depend on the provider selected</li> </ul>
<b>Monitored</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspected by Community Care Licensing (530) 895-5033</li> <li>Reviewed by Federal &amp; State Auditors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspected by Community Care Licensing (530) 895-5033</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No inspections</li> </ul>

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