



MARYLAND
FAMILY
NETWORK

FOR PARENTS



LOCATE: Child Care Can
Help You Make the
Best Choices for Your Child

1.877.261.0060

SELECTING CHILD CARE IS AN IMPORTANT DECISION FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD. THE QUALITY OF CARE, COST AND CONVENIENCE WILL HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON YOUR LIVES.

LOCATE: Child Care, a free service provided by Maryland Family Network, can help you with this decision.

What is LOCATE: Child Care?

LOCATE: Child Care is a free telephone referral service that:

- Helps parents identify and choose child care best suited their needs, preferences and ability to pay;
- Maintains a database of all regulated center-based care facilities, family child care, nursery schools, kindergartens, and Head Start programs in Maryland;
- Offers parents information on regulated programs available in their neighborhoods or near their workplaces;
- Documents the need for child care, cost of care, extent of services available and other pertinent data based on information it receives from child care providers and parents; and
- Reports its findings to legislators, policy-makers, advocates, child care professionals and the general public.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE PERSONALIZED ASSISTANCE WITH FINDING REGULATED CHILD CARE? CALL:

LOCATE: Child Care

1.877.261.0060

LOCATE: Child Care is a free statewide telephone service, available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PARENT CALLS LOCATE?

LOCATE: Child Care is a parent-driven service that begins when a parent calls the LOCATE line. LOCATE staff members respect the parent's right and ability to choose the best care for his/her child.

The LOCATE Referral Specialist will:

- Discuss the parent's child care preferences pertaining to type of care, location, hours, amount willing to spend, and environmental factors, such as smoking and pets;
- Explain the different types of child care available;
- Search LOCATE's database and provide parents with a list of child care options that most closely meet their needs;
- Provide guidelines for selecting quality child care;
- Provide current information on early childhood education and best child care practices; and
- Link the caller to other resources such as the state Child Care Subsidy program.

Service is provided to callers by trained LOCATE Referral Specialists who are professionals holding a minimum of a Bachelor Degree in early childhood education or other related field. In addition, referral specialists have a minimum of two years of experience working in the field of child care or early childhood development.

WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO FINDING QUALITY CHILD CARE?

1. Call LOCATE: Child Care at Maryland Family Network. Referral specialists will provide you with child care options best suited to your needs, along with guidelines for evaluating child care providers or center-based facilities.
2. Call all of the family child care homes or center programs to which you were referred and conduct a telephone interview.
3. Visit at least three programs. Take your child with you and observe the facility, the caregiver, and the other children.
4. Decide which child care arrangement seems the best for your child. If you are unhappy with the selections, call LOCATE again for more referrals.
5. Take steps to establish good relationships with the child care provider or center.
6. Remember, at any time, you are welcome to call LOCATE: Child Care for more information, guidance, or an additional list of referrals.

WHAT IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CHILD CARE?

If you have concerns about the way your child is treated, first speak to the caregiver. If the situation is not quickly resolved, speak with a LOCATE Referral Specialist who can serve as a resource for more information. If you feel the child care program is not operating according to regulations, the specialist will direct you to contact your regional Office of Child Care. If you think your complaint involves child abuse or neglect, you will be directed to your local Child Protective Services.

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