Selecting Quality Child Care
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Name a few day care centers in within a two mile radius of your home. What are some reasons for parents selecting a day care center as an option for child care? What are some concerns about placing your child in a day care center? Let’s look at http://childcareaware.org. This is a great resource for parents to help them select a day care for their child.
Family Day Care

• **Description:** Child care within a family home that provides care for 4 or more children, but no more than 6. Usually children have to be 6 to 8 weeks of age.

• **Advantages:** Homelike, low numbers

• **Disadvantages:** Not structured, usually more costly than day care.

With family day care, children usually received the individual attention they need. Name home day care centers in your vicinity. What are the advantages and disadvantages of family day care? for the child? for the parent. For the care giver? How many of you were cared for at a family day care? What was your experience like?
In-Home Child Care

- **Description:** takes place in the child’s own home.
- **Advantages:** Chances of getting sick or safety issues is minimal.
- **Disadvantages:** Educational activities are not a priority so children entering school may be low performing.

Some other advantages are the children are most likely care for by a grandparent or relative. What are the advantages and disadvantages of child care by a relative? For the relative? For the child? For the parents? How many of you were cared for in your home by a relative or caregiver? What was your experience like (if you can remember)? There are also three type of caregivers which provide in-home child care; housekeepers, au pairs and nannies. What are the differences? What questions should a parent ask if they are interviewing a in-home child care provider? How does the training of an au pairs and certified professional nanny compare with each other?
Montessori School

- **Description:** Learn by playing independently with Montessori toys. Children use concrete objects and use 5 senses.

- **Advantages:** Teaches self motivation, basic skills.

- **Disadvantages:** Expensive, low teacher interaction.

Children usually enter a Montessori school between 30-36 months. In Montessori classrooms, children are placed together which are within a three year age span. Children in this group are not separated by level, grade, or age. Sensory learning is a major focus in a Montessori school. They believe in putting the child in charge of their own learning-they emphasize the importance of work and not play.
Preschool programs are often called pre-kindergartens. It is usually referred to as state financed programs for three and four year olds from low income families. Kindergarten is a German word meaning children’s garden. Some preschool programs offer curricula and specific learning programs.
References/Resources

Child Care Aware: America’s most trusted child care resource.  
http://childcareaware.org

Gives parents information on choosing a child care


National Association for the Education of Young Children  
http://www.naeyc.org

Articles on Childhood Programs

Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services  
http://www.dppr.state.tx.us

Information on Child Care Licensing and other helpful information for parents