Know the Standards: Center-Based and Home-Based Child Care Programs

Child Guidance
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What is the Difference Between Center-Based care and Home-Based Care?

**Center based care is day care** care provided for 13 or more children for less than 24 hours/day.

Home based care is day care provided for no more than 12 children for less than 24 hours/day in the caregiver's residence.
What are the Types of Child Day Care Operations?

- Listed Family Home
- Registered Child-Care Home
What are the Types of Child Day Care Operations?

- Licensed Child-Care Home
- Licensed Center
- Child Care Program
What are the Types of Child Day Care Operations?

- Before or After-School Program
- School-Age Program
Texas Child Care Licensing (CCL)

Child Care Licensing Responsibilities

Regulates all child-care operations and child-placing agencies to protect the health, safety, and well-being of children in care, largely by reducing the risk of injury, abuse, and communicable disease.
Each of the Child Care Licensing Minimum Standards in Texas has been assigned a weight (High, Medium High, Medium, Medium Low, or Low) based on the risk that a violation of that standard presents to children.
What Does it Mean if an Operation is “Accredited”?

An operation is accredited when it elects to follow higher standards established by an accrediting organization.
Accreditation—Family Child Care

Family Child Care
(click on link)
The agency’s Child-Care Licensing (CCL) division is responsible for protecting the health, safety, and well-being of children who attend or live in regulated child-care operations and homes.
Accreditation for Daycare Centers
(click on link)
How Frequently are Inspections Conducted at Child Care Facilities?

Licensed operations must have at least one annual unannounced inspection.
Daycare at its BEST in Houston

Daycare at its BEST in Houston

(click on link)
Evaluating Guidelines

Parents must be diligent in finding the best care for their child

Meet with the caregiver or director.

Parents must research the child care center to make sure that meets their standards such as:

- Caregivers
- Teachers
- Settings
- Activities
- Discipline
- Regulations and Licenses
Evaluating Providers-Caregivers/Teachers

Ask the following questions:

- Do the caregivers/teachers seem to really like children?
- Do the caregivers/teachers get down on each child's level to speak with the child?
- Are children greeted when they arrive?
Evaluating Providers-Settings

- Is the atmosphere bright and pleasant?
- Is there a fenced-in outdoor play area with a variety of safe equipment?
- Can the caregivers/teachers see the entire playground at all times?
Evaluating Providers-Activities

- Is there a daily balance of play time, story time, activity time and nap time?
- Are the activities right for each age group?
- Are there enough toys and learning materials for the number of children?
- Are toys clean, safe and within reach of the children?
Evaluating Providers-In General

- Do you agree with the discipline practices?
- Do you hear the sounds of happy children?
- Are children comforted when needed?
Tips for Parents

What to Look For:
Research your options. Find a licensed or registered day care in your area and check its inspection record at TXChildCareSearch.org.
Once my child is in care, how do I ensure care stays at my standards?

Keep talking with the caregiver.

Good communication with your child and child's caregiver is vital from the very beginning and will help ensure good care for your child.
Tips for Parents

Once my child is in care, how do I ensure care stays at my standards?

Keep talking with your child.

Ask your child about their day, what they did, whom they saw or anything special that day.
Tips for Parents

Once my child is in care, how do I ensure care stays at my standards?

Talk to Child Care Licensing, if necessary.
Report problems.

To report your concerns, locate your local DFPS Child Care Licensing office on the DFPS Web site, www.txchildcaresearch.org, or call the child-care information line at 1-800-862-5252.
Child Safety Campaigns

- **Don't Be In the Dark About Child Care** campaign on dangers of unregulated child care.
- **Room to Breathe** campaign on safe sleeping practices for infants.
- **Watch Kids Around Water** campaign on water safety for children, at home and outdoors.
Child Safety Campaigns

Car Safety: Look Before You Lock
Information on Shaken Baby Syndrome and Sudden Infant Death (SIDS)
Healthy Child Care America
Child Safety Campaigns

Keeping Children Safe

Reporting Abuse and Neglect
Texas law requires caregivers to report suspected child abuse or neglect to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services or law enforcement. Call 1-800-252-5400 to make confidential reports. Failure to report suspected abuse or neglect is a crime. Employers are prohibited from retaliating against caregivers who make reports in good faith.

Protecting Children
Shaken Baby Syndrome is the result of violently shaking young children. Injuries can include brain swelling and damage, subdural hemorrhaging, mental retardation and death. N EVER SHAKE A BABY!

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, or SIDS, is the unexplained death of a sleeping baby. Always place infants to sleep on their backs on a firm surface, free from soft items such as quilts, pillows or toys.

Unsafe Children’s Products
Recalls of unsafe consumer products, including children’s products, are available. It is easy and free to find out just go to the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission website at www.cpsc.gov or you may access the recall information at the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services website at www.dpss.state.tx.us.

Keeping Children Healthy
Protect children from illness and disease:
• Wash your hands and children’s hands often.
• Immunize children.
• Keep ill children at home.
• Learn CPR and First Aid.
• Make sure that children drink plenty of water.
• Discuss special care needs with caregivers.
• Learn more about childhood diabetes, which impairs a body’s ability to regulate blood sugar levels, and other medical conditions from your child’s healthcare provider.

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Don't Be in the Dark About Day Care (Blindfold) (click on link)
Don't Be in the Dark About Child Care (click on link)
Department of Family and Protective Services
Hotlines and Information Lines
(click on link)
References and Resources

Microsoft Clip Art: Used with permission from Microsoft.

Textbook:

Websites:
Child Care.gov
ChildCare.gov is a comprehensive online resource designed to link parents, child care providers, researchers, policymakers and the general public with Federal Government sponsored child care and early learning information and resources both quickly and easily.

http://childcare.gov/

Fight BAC! Goes to Child Care
Seven sets of fact sheets to help food safety and health professionals in their work to train childcare workers developed by Clemson University.


Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
The agency’s Child-Care Licensing (CCL) division is responsible for protecting the health, safety, and well-being of children who attend or live in regulated child-care operations and homes.

http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Information_for_Parents/what_we_do.asp
References and Resources

YouTube™:

Accreditation for Daycare Centers
Daycare center accreditation goes above and beyond the traditional state requirements, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children is a well-known organization that many child care facilities join. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PfqssBx0fU&feature=share&list=SP9C803130246849AC

Accreditation—Family Child Care
When you go off to work or school you want to have the peace of mind that your little one is getting the highest quality care available. So when searching for child care you will likely want to find a provider who has gone above and beyond the usual licensing process. http://youtu.be/2_wwfgAwZhY

Daycare at its BEST in Houston
Child Care Daycare Preschool Services Houston TX. We offer Nationally Acclaimed Curriculum, Internet Monitoring, Security and more is yours at this highly rated Cypress Texas childcare program. http://youtu.be/Qve3wBFkiZM