UNDERSTANDING TYPES OF CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Choosing child care is one of the most important decisions you will make for your child. Finding the right match can have a positive impact on your child's development. The early years of your child's life matter because early experiences affect how the brain learns. Ensuring your child experiences high-quality interactions with adults and other children promotes language and social development that will impact your child for years to come.

WHAT ARE MY CHILD CARE CHOICES?

1

LICENSED CHILD CARE

follow state policy for safety, health, staffing, and early learning. Licensed classrooms may be located in child care centers, universities, public schools, charter schools, and Head Start/Early Head Start centers. Children are often grouped by age into classrooms with one or two teachers. Early learning centers have trained program directors, lead teachers, and additional support staff.

2

LICENSE-EXEMPT FAMILY CHILD CARE

is child care for 6 or fewer children offered in the child care provider's private home and who receive payment for services. Children of mixed ages are often grouped together. Family child care can have one or more caregivers who manage your child's care and education.

3

UNLICENSED CHILD CARE

is not monitored or regulated by the LDOE. Sites may be operating illegally if they provide care for more than 12½ hours a week or serve more than six children unrelated to the caregiver.

WHERE CAN I FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON QUALITY CHILD CARE?

- ✓ Learn about your **Early Childhood Community Network** by contacting the lead agency in your community.
- ✓ Learn about your center's license, latest inspection results, and their **quality rating** by visiting www.LouisianaSchools.com.
- ✓ Learn about your region's Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and how they help families find quality care in a specific area.

FIND A SCHOOL OR CENTER

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WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LICENSED AND LICENSE-EXEMPT CHILD CARE?

LICENSED CHILD CARE

Licensed child care sites provide care and education to children in commercial child care centers, and are subject to health and safety standards.

- Three categories of licensed child care, called Type I, Type II, or Type III.
- Rigorous licensing process that includes multiple inspections by various government agencies for safety, indoor/outdoor equipment, health, facilities, emergency procedures, educational curriculum requirements, and staff training.

Type III Child Care Centers	Type II Child Care Centers	Type I Child Care Centers
✓ In addition to private pay, authorized to accept public funding that helps families who need assistance through the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), such as children in low-income working families, children in foster care, children with special needs, and children experiencing homelessness ✓ Instructional quality rating published on www.LouisianaSchools.com ✓ To learn more about the quality rating system, watch this short video	✓ Only accepts private pay ✓ Sites will not have a quality rating on School Finder	✓ Only accepts private pay ✓ Owned by a religious organization ✓ Sites will not have a quality rating on School Finder

LICENSE-EXEMPT FAMILY CHILD CARE

Family child care are license-exempt providers who can care for fewer than seven children in a private residence, and can choose to:

- Certify in order to care for children through the Child Care Assistance Program
- Register with the Department of Education to become listed and receive annual inspections
- Remain unregistered and unlisted with the Department of Education

Certified	Registered	Unregistered
✓ Registered with the Department of Education ✓ Certified to accept children who participate with CCAP which provides families assistance with child care ✓ Requires additional guidelines to be followed and qualifies the site for additional support ✓ Sites will not have a quality rating on School Finder	✓ Registered with the Department of Education ✓ Requires at least one annual licensing inspection, annual fire inspection, and criminal background checks for staff and residents ✓ Sites will not have a quality rating on School Finder	✓ Service is in the provider's home ✓ Not regulated by state licensing inspections ✓ Sites will not have a quality rating on School Finder

UNLICENSED CHILD CARE

Unlicensed child care that does not register with the Department of Education does not follow state guidelines or inspections for safety, health, staffing, or early learning.

- Sites that enroll more than six unrelated children in full-time care should be licensed to ensure the safety of your children.
- Sites may be operating illegally if they provide care for more than 12½ hours a week or serve more than six children unrelated to the caregiver.

How do I know if a center is licensed?

- To find out if your center has a state license, ask the staff where their current license is posted in the center. If they do not have a visible, posted license that is up to date, they may be an unlicensed, unregistered child care provider. This means that this center may not be monitored by state licensing.

Learn more about your child's child care, Head Start, or public pre-k by visiting www.LouisianaSchools.com