



School-Age Child Care Needs

Each family's need for child care of their school aged children can vary greatly. Quality school-age child care programs are neither an extension of the school day nor meant to only keep children out of harm's way. Rather, they should provide children with a comfortable environment and a great deal of freedom to move about and choose age-appropriate activities. Programs should include space and time for outdoor play, quiet time, homework and socializing with peers. Staff should understand older children have different interests, abilities and strong desires to regulate their own behavior.

When choosing child care for school-aged children consider:

When care is needed...

- Before and/or after school hours that match your needs
- In-service days
- Half days
- School vacation days

The type of setting you prefer...

- Child care centers
- Family child care providers
- Public and private schools
- Religious organizations
- Community agencies

The cost of the program... **cost is not necessarily an indication of quality**

- Is the cost within your family's budget?
- Is financial assistance available? (ex. sibling discounts, tuition assistance, etc.)
- Do you qualify for Purchase of Care? Does the program accept Purchase of Care?

The schedule and activities

- Does the schedule allot for indoor and outdoor play?
- Are snacks/meals included?
- Is time set aside for homework? Are staff members available if the children need help?
- Are there opportunities for individual, small group and whole group activities?
- Are the children offered choices?