

About Regulations

Vermont child care regulations are developed in cooperation with parents and child care providers. They are designed to promote a safe, positive, and age appropriate environment for children. A copy of these regulations is available for your review at every registered home or licensed child care program, and online at www.cddvt.org.

Vermont defines a school age child as one who has attained the age required by law to attend school (age 6) or is attending a full day school session or is attending kindergarten.

Regulated child care programs include licensed facilities and registered homes (persons who provide child care services in their homes). When a child care program is located in a school building, the program is regulated by the Child Development Division and must follow Vermont regulations for school age care.

Recreation programs are not required to follow child care licensing regulations. These programs are defined as ones that do not operate on a regular and continuous basis, and whose primary purpose is recreation.

For Additional Information Contact:

Child Care Consumer Line
Toll-free: 1-800-540-7942

Or write to:
Child Development Division
Department for Children and Families
103 So. Main Street, A Building
Waterbury, VT 05671-5500

For More Information

Also available: "Child Care & You" is a booklet containing helpful information on finding and keeping quality care in Vermont. To obtain a copy, contact your local VACCRRRA agency listed below. You may also request information on the Vermont Child Care Subsidy Program from the agency.

VACCRRRA Member Agencies

Addison County
802-388-4304

Bennington County
802-447-3778

**Caledonia/Essex
(South) Counties**
802-748-1992
800-916-8645

Chittenden County
802-863-3367
800-339-3367

**Franklin/Grand Isle
Counties**
802-524-6574

Lamoille County
802-888-5229

**Orange/Windsor
(North) Counties**
603-646-3233
800-323-5446

**Orleans/Essex
(North) Counties**
802-334-4072
877-722-6680

Rutland County
802-747-0033
800-775-2390

**Windsor (South)/
Windham (North)**
802-886-5242
800-808-4442

Washington County
802-262-3292

Windham County
802-254-5332
866-254-5332

On the web:

www.vermontchildcare.org

email VACCRRRA@verizon.net



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Selecting Quality School Age Care in Vermont

You Think Your Child Needs Care...

Child care does not end when a child enters school. However,

the type of care may change in response to your child's development.

Your child deserves a safe, secure environment which encourages growth—a place to relax, be with friends and try new things.

You want a safe, positive program that matches your schedule and budget, and a provider that understands your child.

Meeting both needs—yours and those of your child—is the key. Here are some tips to help you find quality school age care.



Where to Begin...

Talk to your child:

- Find out about any interests
- Involve your child in making the choice

Ask yourself, does my child:

- Prefer to play with only a few special friends?
- Have a special interest to explore?
- Like to play outdoors a lot?
- Have any special needs?
- Prefer a small, quiet setting?
- Love to play large group games?

Talk with people who can help:

- Your present child care provider
- Your local child care resource and referral agency
- Your child's principal
- Family, friends and neighbors who have used care
- Local listings in newspapers or phone books

Think about different options and make a list:

- Licensed school age programs
- Licensed child care centers which serve younger children as well as school agers
- Registered family day care homes
- Providers who come to your home
- Community organizations
- Recreation centers
- Youth agencies
- Friends, family or other parents who can share in caring for your child

Think about what will work best for location and hours. What serves your needs as well as your child's?

Now you're ready to begin your search.



What to Ask...

Contacts by phone will give you basic answers:

Start with your needs:

- What ages are served?
- Is transportation available?
- What are the hours?
- What are the fee arrangements?
- Is care provided on school holidays or vacations?

Questions to ask to determine quality:

- Is the provider licensed or registered?
- How many children attend and how many are there for each staff member?
- What are the qualifications of the staff?
- How are families involved?
- What is the discipline policy?
- What is included in a typical day?
- What types of activities are offered?
- Does the program/provider have a national accreditation? Or, is the program/provider participating in Vermont's STARS program? www.STARSstepahead.org

If your child has special needs:

- Are the staff trained to work with children with special needs?
- What experience have they had working with children with special needs?
- Are services currently being provided to children with special needs?
- How are services coordinated with schools or other community agencies?
- Can a contract for aide services be arranged if needed?

One final question:

- When can I visit to observe the program in action?

See For Yourself...

Visit the program or home. Make an appointment first so the director or child care provider will be able to spend time with you. Ask for a tour of the space and observe what is going on. Bring your child with you.

Look for quality:

- Is the license or registration certificate posted?
- Is the space clean and inviting?
- Are the indoor and outdoor areas safe?
- Would your child find the materials and equipment interesting?
- Are healthy snacks provided?
- Are there enough adults for the number of children there?
- Are the children happy?
- Are the adults happy?
- How are behavior conflicts between children handled?
- Are children encouraged to solve problems?
- Is there a mix of active and quiet activity options?
- Are there enough activities to appeal to all ages?
- Is the space arranged so children can freely flow from one activity to another?
- Is there quiet space where children can be by themselves?
- Is the space, including bathrooms, handicapped accessible?

Ask for references:

When contacting a person for references, ask these questions:

- Why did you choose this provider?
- What do you like about this program or provider?
- Is there anything you don't like about your child's care?
- If you needed child care again, would you choose this program?