



# Choosing Child Care

*Quality Indicators: What to Look For*



**Health and Safety:** Licensed programs (both centers and homes) meet the state's health and safety standards. For a Provider Compliance History Check use the address below. This process can verify substantial complaints or current non-compliance issues. Families need to allow at least 30 days for a response. There is a nominal administrative cost for this service.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Phone: (785) 296-1270

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services  
Phone: (573) 751-2450

**Group Sizes:** Some children thrive in a large group setting, while others need the quiet and comfort of a smaller group. You should look for an environment that closely matches your child's personality and needs.

**Ratios:** The younger the child, the more one-on-one care he/she may need. Find out what the child to adult ratio is in each child care facility you visit.

**Caregiver Education and Turnover:** An important indicator of quality is the level of education and continuing professional development that the child care provider has. In addition, low staff turnover provides consistency of care for children.

**Accreditation:** Accreditation is a stamp of quality that means a program meets nationally recognized guidelines for high quality early care and education. Child care centers may be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Family child care providers may be accredited through the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC). School-age programs may be accredited through the National School Age Care Alliance (NSACA). In Missouri, the Missouri Center for Accreditation (MOA) accredits infant, preschool and school age programs.

**Family Involvement:** Look for a child care program that will offer opportunities for parent engagement and involvement that will benefit the growth and development of your child.



The Family Conservancy  
444 Minnesota Ave., Suite 200, Kansas City, KS 66101  
913.342.1110  
[www.TheFamilyConservancy.org](http://www.TheFamilyConservancy.org)

