

Employee Child Care Guide

November 2023



Need Help Finding Child Care?



Search for [Child Care online](#) or contact one of the [Care about Childcare agencies](#),
Toll free: 1-855-531-2468

Care about Childcare agencies are located regionally statewide and are staffed by experienced staff who can respond to questions and help families find child care.

Care about Childcare staff can help parents find child care based on individual family needs (e.g., near work, near home, or to keep siblings together).

- Need help finding child care for a special needs child?
- Need help in finding child care during non-traditional hours (like evenings or weekends)?
- Looking for a Pre-K program, summer camp or, after-school program?

Care about Childcare specialists can help. Staff work with families to understand their needs and desires, and to help parents make informed decisions. Let experts help you today!

Are you taking advantage of federal and state tax benefits to help make child care more affordable?

- There is a federal tax credit for child care expenses that allows a modest credit against individual/family taxes owed.
- There is a business employee benefit that enables employees to set-aside money for child care tax-free that can be used to reimburse some child care expenses.

To double check that you are taking advantage of tax incentives for child care affordability, check out our family tax summary information today.

Need help affording the cost of child care?

For lower wage families, child care subsidies are available based on family income. To find out more about the Utah Child Care Assistance Program that helps families afford quality child care, check out the [child care assistance web page](#) under Utah's Department of Workforce Services. Eligible families can earn up to 85% of state median income and still potentially qualify for child care subsidies. In 2023 in

Utah, qualifying families with monthly income up to \$4,853 for a family of two, \$5,995 for a family of three, \$7,137 for a family of four, and \$8,278 for a family of five may be eligible for a subsidy to help make child care more affordable.

For more information about the Child Care Assistance Program:

<https://jobs.utah.gov/customereducation/services/childcare/index.html>

To apply for child care assistance: <https://jobs.utah.gov/mycase-app/ui/>

The Utah Child Care Quality System is voluntary for child care providers (except for providers serving children on subsidy who are required to participate). What is it? How does it work? Why should parents look for quality rated programs?

It's hard for parents to compare child care settings and to know the differences among settings. Parents want their children to be safe. Parents also want settings that will promote the healthy development of their children.

Utah's Child Care Quality System is a systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early education and school-age care programs. Throughout Utah, it is an effort to take the guesswork for parents out of choosing child care. Programs are assigned a quality rating based on program standards. The rating system approach is helpful to programs for continuous quality improvement and helpful to parents in providing a quality guide to choosing child care.

Why should parents look for programs that participate in the Child Care Quality System? Research has found that the quality of care children receive in their child care settings dramatically affects their social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development. Research has also shown, even into the teen years, that high quality settings during the early years of life, have made a difference in social and emotional development and school performance (in both the short-term and the long-term).

For more on the Child Care Quality System, see [these resources!](#)

Parent Tips:

Use the [Child Care Checklist](#) when searching for care!

Questions? Contact your local [Care for Childcare agency!](#)