



MRTQ PDN is funded by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services, Child Care Development Block Grant

## Other Resources

Using the search function on Child Care Choices is just one step in the process of finding child care.; there are many more resources to help you with your search and your decision. You can find information about:

- The Step ratings of *Quality for ME*, Maine's quality rating and improvement system;
- Checklists to use when visiting programs;
- Information for families about child development and care for children with special needs.

*This publication was made possible by Grant Number 90TP0028 from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Office of Child Care, the Administration for Children and Families, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*



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[childcarechoices.me](http://childcarechoices.me)

**Your Resource for  
Searching for Child Care  
in Maine**



## What Is Child Care Choices?

Child Care Choices is Maine's online resource for helping families search for and learn about their options for child care.

You can use the search tool to look for child care that will meet your family's needs. On the website you can learn about:

- The types of child care in Maine and resources to help you choose a program that's right for your family
- *Quality for ME*, Maine's quality rating and improvement system
- Child care licensing information
- Resources for families, including if you need help paying for child care

## Types of Care

These are the types of programs that are included in the search function on Child Care Choices:

**Family Child Care:** These programs operate within a private home and often serve multiple age groups.

**Child Care Center:** These programs operate in a facility designated for the care of children. Children are often grouped according to age in child care centers.

**Nursery School:** These programs offer programming for children for no more than 3 ½ hours per day. Some nursery schools offer both a morning and afternoon session, but children may only attend one session per day.

**Head Start:** Head Start is a federal program that promotes the school readiness of children ages birth to five from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development. Head Start serves preschool-age children and their families. Many Head Start programs also provide Early Head Start, which serves infants, toddlers, pregnant women and their families who have incomes below the federal poverty level. Programs may be full-day or part-day.

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## How to Search

The search feature allows you to search by:

- Type of care (family child care or child care center);
- Address and distance;
- City or zip code;
- Step rating with *Quality for ME*;
- Ages served.

The results are provided on a map and as a downloadable list that includes:

- Program name, address, and phone number;
- Program type and ages served;
- Step rating with *Quality for ME*;
- Driving directions;
- Licensing details.

If you have questions about your child care search please call 1-877-680-5866 to speak with the Child Care Resource and Referral Department at the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services.

## Contact Us

Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network

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Visit us on the web:

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