What is quality child care?

The ways in which a child care provider interacts with young children indicate the quality of care they can give. Look for a care provider who:

- shows love and respect toward the children in his/her care
- exhibits a genuine enjoyment in interacting with young children
- provides children with learning experiences that match their ages and interests
- talks with and reads to children every day
- acknowledges children's accomplishments and positively encourages appropriate behavior through effective methods
- provides a safe environment in which children can freely explore and learn.

Where can I get more information?

PATCH is Hawai'i's statewide child care resource and referral agency. PATCH's mission is to support and improve the quality and availability of care for the young people of Hawai'i.

(808) 839-1988 (Oʻahu)

(808) 961-3169 (East Hawai'i)

(808) 322-3500 (West Hawai'i)

(808) 242-9232 (Maui)

(808) 246-0622 (Kauaʻi)

(800) 498-4145 (Moloka'i and Lana'i)

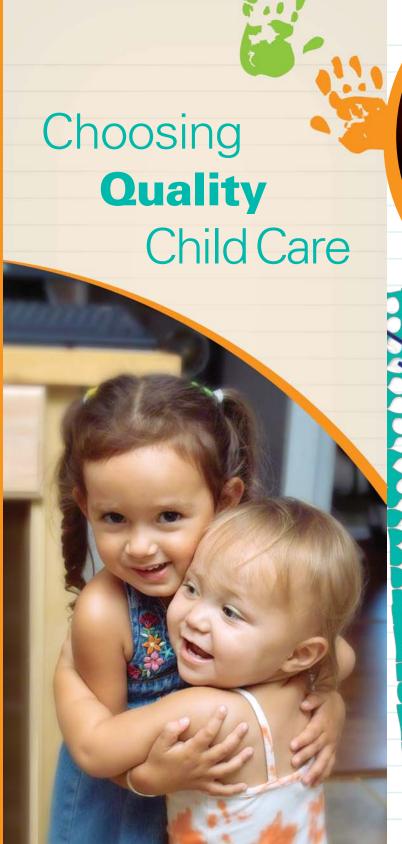
Email: patch@patchhawaii.org

The Parent Line is a free statewide confidential telephone line which offers support and information to parents and other caregivers. The staff will help you problem-solve parenting challenges and child and adolescent behavioral and developmental issues.

(808) 526-1222 (Oʻahu) 1-800-816-1222 (Neighbor Islands, *toll-free*)



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The **care** that children receive during their early years shapes the way they learn, think, and behave for the rest of their lives.

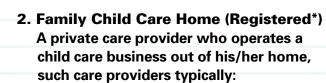
Whether they are cared for by their family members, professional child care providers, or family friends, children thrive when they are nurtured in a safe, healthy environment.

What Are My Child Care Options?

There are three basic types of child care settings.

- Child Care Center (Licensed*)
 Set up specifically to provide child care for groups of children, such facilities typically:
- have more than one adult to care for the children and can continue to provide care even when there are staff emergencies
- provide more opportunities for a child to interact with other children
- have some staff with formal training in child development and early education, as well as first aid and CPR.





- provide a home-like care setting
- may offer more opportunities for a child to interact with children of other ages
- may have a more flexible schedule than center-based facilities.
- *A Licensed or Registered provider
 has received a certificate of approval
 issued by the State authorizing the
 operation of a child care facility and
 meets certain minimum health, safety,
 and training standards, including first aid
 and CPR training.

An Accredited provider has met the highest quality care standards established by organizations such as the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) for licensed facilities, and the National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC) for registered family care home providers. Not all licensed providers are accredited.

- 3. Family, Friend, or Neighbor Care (License-exempt**)
 A relative (e.g., aunty, uncle, grandma, or grandpa) or friend who is willing to care for your child either in his/her home or yours. Typically, this type
- is provided by someone that you already know, trust, and feel comfortable with

of care:

- may be more flexible about schedules or caring for children who are ill.
- **A Licensed-exempt provider does not need to meet the state's licensing requirements.



How Do I Choose?

- Step 1: Consider which options would best match your family's circumstances, values, and any other relevant needs.
- Step 2: Identify prospective care providers.
- Step 3: Interview care providers; ask questions about children's care, discipline, and activities, as well as the provider's experience in child care to determine how well each care provider matches your child's and family's needs.
- Step 4: Visit and observe; check to see if the environment is clean, safe, and positive.
- Step 5: Check at least two references; ask what they think of the provider and the care their children are receiving.
- Step 6: Make a decision based on the information you collected and your level of comfort with the provider.
- Step 7: Follow up and stay involved; if you have any concerns, respectfully communicate them to the provider and work together to ensure that your child receives the best care possible.