

# How to Choose High-Quality Child Care

## Presentation Overview

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### Acknowledge Care and Education Options:

- Refer to the Child Care Landscape Infographic to get a better understanding of the diverse options of care available for families.

[www.tryingtogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Infographic\\_Poster\\_letter-2018-1.pdf](http://www.tryingtogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Infographic_Poster_letter-2018-1.pdf) (PDF)

- Utilize the new Allegheny Child Care finder tool to search for available spots at early learning, after school, summer camp, and virtual programs.

[www.alleghenychildcare.org](http://www.alleghenychildcare.org)

### Establish Care and Education Needs:

- Begin to think about the child's needs in regards to education and overall development. It is appropriate for caregivers to identify goals they would like them to meet based on their current development.

[www.helpmegrowmn.org/HMG/DevelopMilestone/index.html](http://www.helpmegrowmn.org/HMG/DevelopMilestone/index.html)

- We encourage caregivers to develop a list of questions to ask prospective providers. Inquire about all topics that are important to your family. Choosing child care is an important commitment!

[www.tryingtogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/TT-Family-Checklist\\_06-20-1.pdf](http://www.tryingtogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/TT-Family-Checklist_06-20-1.pdf) (PDF)

### Search for High-Quality Characteristics:

- Become more aware of what Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP) look like:

[www.tryingtogether.org/community-resources/dap](http://www.tryingtogether.org/community-resources/dap)

[www.tryingtogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/DAP-One-Pager\\_FIN.pdf](http://www.tryingtogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/DAP-One-Pager_FIN.pdf) (PDF)

- Educate yourself on safe practices being conducted at child care facilities. Ask lots of questions about health and safety practices and be sure to closely review each provider's family handbook for more information.

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html#pickup](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html#pickup)

- Inquire about providers curriculum and assessment tools! You need to stay looped in about what lessons your child will be learning so you can practice at home too.
- Search for that "family feel" when you walk into a facility. Does the space feel inviting? Is the classroom warm and welcoming? Can you see your child being comfortable in this space?
- Inquire about communication policies. Communication and engagement are very important when caregivers partner with their child care provider in ensuring the best possible care and education for their child. In addition, seek ways that you can become involved in your child's early learning journey with their provider.
- Consider utilizing the following document as a "take away" from your conversations, so you have a summary of what to look for:

[www.tryingtogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/HowTCCC\\_05-27-1.pdf](http://www.tryingtogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/HowTCCC_05-27-1.pdf) (PDF)

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## Build Community Partnerships:

- Find information on Kindergarten transition with the Hi5! initiative.

[www.tryingtogether.org/community-resources/kindergarten-transition/](http://www.tryingtogether.org/community-resources/kindergarten-transition/)

- Stay connected with Trying Together for more resources to help guide your discovery in finding high-quality child care.

### Trying Together

Facebook: @TryingTogether

Twitter: @Trying\_Together

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/trying-together/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/trying-together/)

Instagram: @Trying\_Together

Pinterest: @tryingtogether

Vimeo: [vimeo.com/tryingtogether](https://vimeo.com/tryingtogether)

### ELRC Region 5

Facebook: @ELRCregion5

Twitter: @ELRCregion5

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## Participate In Advocacy:

### Support State Efforts:

Caregivers can stay informed about what is going on in the state regarding efforts to support early childhood education.

### Check Out the Early Learning PA (ELPA) Campaign Websites:

[www.prekforpa.org/](http://www.prekforpa.org/)

[www.childhoodbeginsathome.org/](http://www.childhoodbeginsathome.org/)

[www.startstrongpa.org/](http://www.startstrongpa.org/)

### Follow ELPA Campaigns On Social Media:

#### Start Strong PA

- Facebook: @StartStrongPA
- Twitter: @StartStrongPA
- Instagram: @startstrongpa

#### Childhood Begins at Home

- Facebook: @ChildhoodBeginsAtHome
- Twitter: @ChildBegin\_Home

#### Pre-K for PA

- Facebook: @prekforpa
- Twitter: @prek4pa
- Instagram: @prek4pa

### Support National Efforts:

[www.naeyc.org/get-involved/advocate](http://www.naeyc.org/get-involved/advocate)

[www.ffyf.org/](http://www.ffyf.org/)