

CHOOSING THE RIGHT CARE FOR YOUR CHILD

Choosing the right child care provider may be one of the most important decisions you can make for your child's health, happiness and safety. If your infant, toddler or preschooler needs fulltime child care, she or he can spend many hours a day with their child care provider. That's why it's important to choose a provider carefully.

Steps to choosing a quality child care program

1. Contact Child Care Support Services for a free confidential child care referral
2. Become familiar with the various types of care available
3. Learn about the [state regulations](#) for each type of care
4. Contact the child's care programs you received through your referral:
 - Do they have an opening?
 - How many children does the provider care for?
 - What are the ages of the children they care for?
 - What are the fees? What does that include?
5. Visit several programs and providers
 - Use checklist to ask questions.
 - For a downloaded able copy of the NYS OFCS brochure, 'As You Think about Child Care' [click here](#). The brochure is also available in [Spanish](#), [Chinese](#), [Russian](#), [Bengali](#), [Haitian Creole](#) and [Korean](#).
 - Make notes.
 - Observe the environment, the caregivers and the children
6. Ask for references from parents whose children are in the program.
7. You can see if the provider has any violations or complaints by calling the New York State Office of Children and Family Services at (800) 732-5207 or by visiting their [website](#).
8. Select a child care setting that best suits the needs of you and your child.



CHILD CARE SUPPORT SERVICES

A program of Catholic Charities of Delaware and Otsego Counties
176 Main Street, Oneonta, NY 13820
(607) 432-0061 | Fax: (607) 431-9303
www.CharitiesCCDOS.org | childcare@charitiesccdo.org