

Childcare Choices

WHAT IS QUALITY?

When looking for child care and preschool programs it is important to understand what makes each program unique, qualified and successful. Colorado Shines evaluates the following measures to determine the ranking of each participating early learning program.

LEVEL 1: The program is licensed by the State of Colorado and meets basic health and safety standards.

LEVEL 2: The program meets the requirements of Level 1 and is taking specific steps to improve its quality.

LEVEL 3-5: The program has completed an intensive process to demonstrate quality.

Early Childhood Council San Luis Valley

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WE ARE HERE TO HELP.....

The early years of life are critical to a child's learning and development. Quality early learning programs, like child care and preschool, help children start early and start strong on the path to life-long success.



Quality Childcare in the San Luis Valley Community



Supported by:
SLV Child Care Workgroup
SLV Home Visitation
Coalition
&
The Maternal Infant Early
Childhood Home Visitation
Program (MIECHV)



FINDING CARE

You may call the Colorado Child Care Resource and Referral agency for more information at [877-338-2273](tel:877-338-2273).

You may visit ColoradoShines.com to search for a licensed program in our area.

The local Department of Social Services can provide you with information about child care in your County.

You can contact the Early Childhood Council for additional guidance at [719-937-4010](tel:719-937-4010) or www.eccslv.org

CHILD CARE OPTIONS

For **Child Care Services**, it is important to understand the **different options** of care available.

Licensed Care: includes a Family Child Care Home Provider or a Center based program that is licensed under Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS).

- ⇒ Small Family Child Care Home Providers - Serves 8 children with 2 under 2 years
- ⇒ Experienced (or Large) Family Child Care home – Serves up to 12 children
- ⇒ Center Based of various sizes and ability to serve different ages generally from 6 weeks to 13 years

Qualified Exempt Care which is legally exempt from having a license issued by the CDHS, by meeting certain requirements.

- ⇒ Child Care Provider is a Family Member
- ⇒ Cares for 1 unrelated families' children in addition to their own (not more than 1 family)
- ⇒ Has completed certain health & safety requirements

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Your family may be eligible for **financial assistance** to help you with the cost of child care and preschool services:

Colorado Preschool Program is available through funding from the Public School District and is generally used for children 3 & 4 years with risk factors for school success. All 14 school districts in the San Luis Valley have Colorado Preschool funding.

Head Start Programs are available for 3 & 4-year-old children in families generally at or below the Federal Poverty Level. The Head Start Programs are located in Alamosa, Conejos, Sanford, Center, Del Norte and Monte Vista.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) provides eligible families with financial assistance for child care. Contact your local DSS for more information.
Alamosa – 589-2581
Conejos – 376-5455
Costilla – 672-4131
Mineral & Rio Grande – 657-3381
Saguache – 655-2537 or 754-2308

Early Head Start (EHS) Services are provided to children 6 weeks to 3 years and their families which are generally living at or below the Federal Poverty Level. Call 719-937-4010 for more info.