Early Childhood Education Resources for Families

April 2021

Childcare and Preschool

Arizona Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR)

https://www.azccrr.com/

1-800-308-9000

Head Start Locator

https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/center-locator

Quality First Child Care Quality Checklist

https://qualityfirstaz.com/quality-child-care-checklist/

First Things First: Quality Care in Your Region

https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/governance/ftf-regions/find-your-region/

First Things First: Quality First Scholarships and

Other Financial Assistance

https://qualityfirstaz.com/parents/paying-for-child-care/

Arizona Department of Economic Security: Child Care

https://des.az.gov/services/child-and-family/child-care

Department of Economic Security in Training Childcare Subsidy

https://des.az.gov/services/child-and-family/child-care



"From the day a child is born, the care, attention, love and support they experience lays the foundation for their future."

- First Things First



Parenting Support

Birth to Five Helpline

Free service to Arizona families with young children with questions or concerns about their infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

CALL 877-705-KIDS (5437)
*bilingual English/Spanish

You can ask about anything, including:

- Sleep
- Feeding/Eating
- Fussiness
- Tantrums/Challenging Behaviors
- Potty Training
- Child Development
- Health and Nutrition
- Parenting

Or submit your question online: https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/resources birth five-helpline/

First Things First Parent Kit

Digital toolkit to help meet the challenges of being a parent and support the health development of your baby, toddler, or preschooler.

https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/resources/parent-kit/

WEB and SOCIAL MEDIA

First Things First

www.firstthingsfirst.org

Quality First

https://qualityfirstaz.com/

CCRR

Facebook: @arizonachildcare

Instagram: @azccrr Twitter: @AZChildCare Pinterest: ArizonaCCRR

Make Way for Books

https://makewayforbooks.org/

Facebook: @makewayforbooksaz

Twitter: @MWFBAz

Instagram: @makewayforbooks

App: Apple and Android, English and

Spanish versions

Vroom app: Apple and Android

https://www.vroom.org/





- @AZFTF
- @ @azfirstthingsfirst
- in first-things-first
- **AZFirstThingsFirst**





CHECK IT OUT: CHOOSING QUALITY CHILD CARE AND PRESCHOOL

Choosing a child care setting for your infant, toddler or preschooler is a big decision. Quality is one of the most important factors to consider, as research shows that quality early learning settings help children develop skills that are crucial to their success now and once they enter school. But quality is not always easy to spot. This checklist will help you recognize the key elements of quality and make a more informed decision when considering a child care or preschool setting for your child.



Quality First, a signature program of First Things First, partners with child care and preschool providers across Arizona to improve the quality of early learning for kids birth to 5.

Learn more at QualityFirstAZ.com.

	AT YOUR VISIT: QUESTIONS TO ASK			
	Do you have a parent handbook? Quality programs should offer you a copy. What are the qualifications of the director and teachers.	□ ers?	 How does the program deal with children with challenging behavior? Quality programs have steps in place to prevent disruptions communicate with the child, redirect the child, and commun cate with the family. Time out is not effective in dealing wit disruptive children. 	
	How long have they been working with children?			
	Experience working with infants, toddlers and preschooler well as training or college coursework in early childhood de opment and education lead to quality adult/child interaction.	evel-		
	How do you keep families informed about your progr	am		
	and their children's progress?		NOTES	
	Quality centers will post lesson plans, send parents informa such as a newsletter, host regular parent/teacher conferer and keep you informed about your child's activities.			
_	,	_		
	What is your ratio of teachers to children? Maximum group size?	_		
	These determine the level of care and attention your child may receive. Quality programs have smaller teacher/child ratios and limit group sizes.			
	Preferred			
	Age of Children Teacher/Child Ratio	_		
	Birth-12 months 1:5 or less			
	12-24 months 1:6 or less			

In mixed-age group settings, check these guidelines by the age of the youngest child in the group.

1:8 or less

1:12 or less

1:13 or less

2 year olds

3 year olds

4-5 year olds

AT YOUR VISIT: THINGS TO LOOK FOR Is there ample space and materials to encourage play and POSITIVE, NURTURING TEACHER/CHILD INTERACTIONS learning within the children's reach, including: ☐ Does the teacher make eye contact with the children, smile □ Books, books and more books and listen without interrupting? □ Blocks and puzzles \square Is the teacher at eye level with the kids when they ☐ Pretend play area with puppets, costumes, etc. are interacting? ☐ Art /writing materials and musical instruments ☐ Is the teacher interacting with children during activity times indoors and outdoors? ☐ Textured materials, such as sand and water ☐ Do you hear the kids talking more than the teacher? Child ☐ Science materials, like plants, funnels, voices should dominate. magnifying glasses, etc. ☐ Does the teacher ask the children questions where they can **OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT** give more than a yes/no answer? ☐ Is there an outdoor play area, with shade, that is used daily? ☐ Are the children supervised at all times? Children should ☐ Are items from the classroom brought outdoors never be left alone and should always be within sight and to be played with? sound of teachers. ☐ Are the adults actively engaged with the kids at play? **CARING FOR INFANTS** ☐ Are babies placed on their backs to sleep? ☐ Do babies spend part of their play time on their tummies? **AFTER YOUR VISIT:** QUESTIONS TO ASK ☐ Do caregivers respond promptly to crying babies? YOUR CHILD ☐ Are babies held while being fed? POSITIVE CHILD/CHILD INTERACTIONS Trust your instincts and also your child's reactions to the teachers and environment. ☐ Are kids playing either together or side-by-side? ☐ Do you think you would like to go play there? ☐ Are children encouraged to work together to resolve differences or conflicts? ☐ What did you like best about the classroom? ☐ What did you like best about the teacher? □ Do kids move freely from activity to activity? **NOTES**

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT