Selecting Quality Child Care
A PARENTS HANDBOOK

Brought to you by
San Angelo P-16+
Education Partnership

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www.sanangelop16.org
The San Angelo P-16+ Education Partnership exists to foster educational excellence and promote partnerships that help prepare citizens for lifelong learning. As members of the P-16+ Education Partnership we recognize the importance of engaging parents and community members in an effort to increase the number of children ready for kindergarten at school entry. For a complete list of P-16+ Education Partnership partners and to learn more about how we are working to make San Angelo’s taxpayer funded education system the best in the universe, visit us at www.sanangelop16.org.

A special thanks to ATMOS ENERGY and the CV WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD for all their support in the creation of this childcare guide for parents who are interested in helping their children get a good start in education.

Kindergarten Readiness Committee Members

- Angelo State University
- Area Agency on Aging-Grandparent Program
- ASU Non-Traditional Student Organization;
- Children’s Advocacy Center of Tom Green County, Inc.
- Concho Valley Family Alliance
- Concho Valley Workforce Development Board – Child Care
- DFPS Child Care Licensing
- Dr. Karl Wehner- Shannon Clinic
- Drew Darby, State Representative
- Early Childhood Intervention
- Goodfellow Air Force Base
- Head Start
- Healthy Families San Angelo

- House of Faith
- Just Mommies
- La Esperanza Clinic
- NAACP
- Educational Services Center Region XV
- RSVP
- San Angelo City Council, SMD 3
- San Angelo Independent School District
- Shannon Health
- St. Luke Christian Child Development Center
- Success By 6
- United Way of the Concho Valley
- Workforce Solutions-Concho Valley – Child Care Services
Dear Parent,

The San Angelo P-16+ Education Partnership invites you to join us in the pursuit of educational excellence for all children in our community. Last year SAISD found that over 43% of kindergarteners were not “ready to learn” at school entry. This means almost half of the children entering kindergarten scored below an age-appropriate level in language and literacy skills and were already behind “average” on the first day of school. Though kindergarten entry for your child may be years from now, research shows learning, as well as, developing the capacity to learn begins at birth. Therefore it is of the utmost importance that we offer our children the most effective learning environments we can from the very beginning. For many of us who work outside of the home that means selecting a quality child care provider- a task which can be overwhelming and often times unsettling.

The San Angelo P-16+ Education Partnership recognizes the difficulties surrounding such a task, and has collaborated with pediatricians, child care providers, parents, and others in the community to ensure our children are getting the best possible start in learning. We’ve found that many parents do not know what they should expect and deserve from a quality child care provider or why staff turnover or school readiness certifications really do matter. We’ve created this handbook to ensure parents have this necessary information, as well as, shed light on the providers whose practices go above and beyond minimum standards.

While we work to ensure child care providers offer the best care possible, we ask that you join us in this endeavor by relentlessly pursuing quality care for your child— that you do not become discouraged and do not give up. We ask that you talk with your pediatrician and child care provider about any questions or concerns you may have and do so as many times as it takes to achieve what is best for your child. We also ask that just as you consider safety, convenience, and affordability, that you equally consider the quality of interactions your provider has with your child on a routine and daily basis. Research shows these interactions- whether good or bad- shape a large part of your child’s development and ultimately lay the foundation for learning and educational success.

Be sure we will be working to improve child care in San Angelo, but please let it be clear that nothing we do can possibly substitute your role as the parent. You are your child’s strongest advocate and know what is best for your child. Please ask for what your child needs beginning now and throughout their educational career. Thank you for your commitment and we look forward to working with you together as we ensure educational excellence for all.

Heather Ward
San Angelo P-16+ Education Partnership Kindergarten Readiness Chair

NOTE FROM A SAN ANGELO PEDIATRICIAN

Dear Parents,

You are about to make one of the most important decisions in your child’s life. You will be choosing who will care for your child during this important time in his/her growth and development. Children begin learning from the moment they are born, and you want to make sure they are learning in a loving and stimulating environment. Choosing a child care facility can be confusing and overwhelming. Hopefully, this brochure will simplify your task. In this brochure you will find helpful ideas about how to find the best childcare facility for your child. Read and study this brochure, and you will be ready to visit and choose the best fit for your child.

Best wishes,
Karl Wehner, MD
San Angelo Pediatricians Association
### Language and Literacy

#### Seeing Clearly
- My eyes smoothly follow an object tracing an “H” and cross (+) in the air.
- I focus near, then far.

#### Naming Letter Shapes
- I see interesting shapes around my crib and home. I recognize the faces of my family.
- I match 2 shapes: lines and curves.

#### Matching Letter Shapes
- I watch my parents' mouth as they emphasize a letter sound.
- I react differently to various sounds.

#### Recognizing Sight Words
- I hear books read to me for 20 minutes a day, perhaps in 5 minute segments.
- I hear and see books read to me for 20 minutes a day. I can answer “Where is…” questions by pointing.

#### Singing, Chanting, Rhyming
- I am sung to daily, including ABC and number songs. I like simple nursery rhymes and poems.
- I sing parts of ABC and number songs with others. I frequently hear nursery rhymes.

#### Saying Letter Sounds
- I react differently to various sounds.
- I can say the last word in familiar rhymes, with assistance.

#### Saying Sounds in Words
- I am sung to daily, including ABC and number songs. I like simple nursery rhymes and poems.
- I sing parts of ABC and number songs with others. I frequently hear nursery rhymes.

#### Comprehending Books
- I hear books read to me for 20 minutes a day, perhaps in 5 minute segments.
- I hear and see books read to me for 20 minutes a day. I can answer “Where is…” questions by pointing.

#### Knowing Print Concepts
- I point to a book during story time. I know if the pictures are right side up.

#### Hearing Spoken Words
- I hear and see books read to me for 20 minutes a day. I can answer “Where is…” questions by pointing.
- I hear my parents speak to me about 30 times an hour.

#### Developing Verbal Skills
- I babble/vocalize using different sounds, volume and inflection to convey meaning.
- I say 1-2 word sentences. I learn 2-4 words a day (16 months). I imitate some animal sounds.

#### Printing First Name
- I grip a crayon and randomly make marks on a paper.
- I make lines and scribbles purposefully on paper.

### Math and Reasoning

#### Counting
- I hear my parents count out loud during the day.
- I hear my parents count objects. They use numbers in everyday routines (e.g. 2 shoes, 3 stairs).

#### Matching Number Shapes
- I match number shapes from 1 to 3.
- I scribble up/down (14 mo.), then in circles (24 mo.).

#### Copying and Tracing
- I hold a writing tool in my fist and scribble.
- I scramble up/down (14 mo.), then in circles (24 mo.).

#### Geometric Shapes
- I play with objects in a variety of shapes.
- I play with shape toys, although I seldom match correctly.

#### Naming Colors
- I hear the names of colors. I can point to 3 colors: red, blue, yellow.
- I sometimes sort objects by color or size.

#### Sorting Items
- After 8 months, I may group a few objects by color or type with assistance.
- I sometimes sort objects by color or size.

#### Adding - Subtracting
- I understand the concept of “more” food and play.
- I understand more and none (all gone).

#### Making Patterns
- My parents play predictable games with me using patterns (e.g. 3 kisses; 2 claps).
- I recognize simple sequence words like “before” and “after.” I arrange objects in lines.

#### Spatial Relationships
- I understand simple position words, such as up, down, in, out.
- I understand simple position words, such as up, down, over, under.

### Social and Emotional

#### Relating to Others
- I feel connected to family and caregivers by their eye contact, words and gentle touching.
- I feel loved and safe because my parents respond promptly to my needs. They smile and cuddle me.

#### Increasing Attention Span
- I focus for a short time when others interact with me.
- I can pay attention to what others are looking at or pointing to.

#### Following Directions
- I enjoy turn-taking games, like peek-a-boo.
- I am beginning to obey one-step directions (e.g. “Please get your coat.”).

#### Taking Responsibility
- I am very dependent on my family. I may cooperate during routines.
- I often cooperate during daily routines. I like to help.

#### Developing Emotional Well-being
- I feel secure because my needs for food, comfort, love and care are being met. I show self-soothing strategies.
- I show a range of emotions with my face, words, gestures. I am beginning to control impulses.
### Ages 2-3

- My eyes follow an object tracing an "H" and cross (+) in the air. I focus near then far, and on my field of vision.
- I identify and say the name of the first letter of my name.
- I match distinctly different letter shapes, including d-m-s-t-v.
- I see labels on common objects in my home.
- I sing/chant ABC and number songs. I am familiar with nursery rhymes and can say part of them.
- I say the sound of the first letter of my name.
- I repeat the ending sound in words that rhyme. I clap or jump the syllables in familiar names, with assistance.
- I supply words and discuss characters during our 20 minute reading time. I respond to "Why…?" questions.
- I identify 10 print concepts: the previous 3, plus title, author, cover, words, letters, top of page, bottom of page.
- I hear my parents speak to me about 30 times an hour.
- I say 2-4 word sentences. I understand 2,000-3,000 words. I repeat short phrases and I imitate animal sounds.
- I do scribble writing. Near age 3, I may draw the first letter of my name.
- I count to 5 from memory.
- I match number shapes from 1 to 6.
- I trace shapes with my finger or crayon. I copy shapes made by others.
- I identify and match circles, squares, rectangles, triangles.
- I know 6 colors: red, blue, yellow, green, brown, black, white.
- I sort objects by one characteristic or classification (e.g. color, shape, type).
- I recognize groups of objects to 3. I know big/small; more/less, all/none.
- I make 2-step color patterns (e.g. red-blue, red-blue).
- I know 10 prepositions (position words).
- I play side-by-side with other children. I use “please” and “thank you.”
- I play cooperatively with other children. I am learning to share.
- I play independently or focus on an engaging activity with an adult for short periods of time.
- I remember and follow 2-step directions.
- I like encouragement when I "help" with tasks. I am beginning to develop self-help skills and self-confidence.
- I name the feelings of myself and others. I respond well to being re-directed to appropriate activities.

### Ages 3-4

- My eyes correctly respond to the "H", cross, near-far, field of vision, and distant details tests.
- I identify and name all the letters in my first name (6-7 letters).
- I correctly match letters in similar shape families: a-c-e-o-s; b-d-g-p-q; h-m-n-r-u.
- I recognize the meaning of labels on 5 common objects in my home.
- I sing/chant ABC and number songs independently. I can recite 4-5 rhymes.
- I say the sounds of all the letters in my first name (6-7).
- I repeat the beginning sound of words. I clap or jump the syllables in familiar words, with assistance.
- I anticipate what comes next in familiar books during our 20 minute reading time. I give 3-4 word responses to “What” and “How” questions.
- I know 15 print concepts: the prior 10, plus (1) first page, (2) last page, (3) print represents spoken sounds, (4) meaning comes from words, (5) pictures help meaning.
- I hear my parents speak to me about 30 times an hour.
- I say 4-6 word sentences. I understand 3,000-4,000 words. I accurately repeat sounds I hear in words. I ask and answer questions.
- I print or copy some letters in my first name. I pretend to write on paper.
- I count in order to 10. I show my age with my fingers.
- I match number shapes from 1 to 9.
- I trace and/or copy letters, numbers and simple geometric shapes.
- I match and name 12 shapes: line, curve, circle, square, rectangle, triangle, diamond (rhombus), oval (ellipse), pentagon, octagon, star, heart.
- I know 9 colors: red, blue, yellow, green, orange, purple, brown, black, white.
- I sort quickly by color and shape. I order items from large to small.
- I recognize groups of objects to 6. I know greater than, less than, equal to. I can do simple addition and subtraction with objects.
- I begin to copy patterns and create 2-step color patterns (AB, AB) and 3-step sound sequences (ABC, ABC).
- I know 20 prepositions and do more complex puzzles.
- I play cooperatively with other children. I am learning to share.
- I accomplish simple tasks through sustained effort.
- I easily remember and follow 2-step instructions. I understand basic safety rules.
- I help dress myself, put toys away and do simple chores. I take care of my toileting and hygiene needs.
- I name and often express emotions appropriately. I am learning not to hurt others.
- I recognize and manage my own emotions. I show kindness and empathy to others.

### Ages 4-5

- My eyes correctly respond to the "H", cross, near-far, field of vision, distant detail, and close-up detail tests.
- I identify and name 12-15 lowercase letters, including those in my first name.
- I correctly match letters in the shape families: a-c-e-o-s; b-d-g-p-q; h-m-n-r-u; f-i-j-l-t; k-v-w-x-y-z.
- I recognize the meaning of labels on 10 objects in my home.
- I sing/chant ABC and number songs while pointing to letters and numbers. I recite 6-10 nursery rhymes.
- I say the sounds of 12-15 letters, including those in my first name.
- I identify the beginning sound in words. I say words that rhyme. I clap syllables independently.
- I can make up a different plot or ending during our 20 minute reading time. I can retell the story.
- I know 20 print concepts: the prior 15 plus (1) letter groups make words; (2) reading moves from left to right and (3) top to bottom; (4) left page is followed by right page; (5) punctuation makes sentences.
- I count in order to 20.
- I match number shapes from 1 to 12.
- I copy, trace and/or draw letters, numbers, and two-dimensional shapes.
- I match and name the prior 12 shapes; I am introduced to three-dimensional shapes: cube, sphere, and cylinder.
- I know 12 colors: red, blue, yellow, green, orange, purple, brown, black, white, grey, pink, light blue.
- I name and sort objects by color, shape and size. I match items that go together.
- I recognize quantities to 10. I accurately use greater than, less than, and equal to. I can do simple addition and subtraction with objects.
- I can create and repeat 2 to 3-step color patterns, copy 3 to 4-step sound sequences and play memory games.
- I know 30 prepositions and do more complex puzzles.
- I "settle in" to new groups or situations with minimal stress. I play cooperatively with two or more peers.
- I focus on a task for at least 5 minutes, persisting even if there are problems or distractions.
- I remember and follow 3-step directions. I obey simple rules.
- I recognize and manage my own emotions. I show kindness and empathy to others.
About Child Care in San Angelo

Start Early. It is important to start your search for quality child care as early as possible. In San Angelo the waiting list for infant care can be as long as 9 months to 1 yr. Ideally you would want to get on waiting lists the day you find out you are pregnant.

Expect to Pay. In San Angelo you should expect to pay from $400.00/mo. to $650.00/mo. for quality child care for an infant. The good news is when a child turns 2 yrs old many child care centers reduce the fees, and many providers offer a discount if more than one child attends. You should check with each provider to find out what type of fee structure is offered. Child Care Services (CCS) provides financial assistance to families who meet certain economic criteria. www.cvworkforce.org/child_care.asp

Know Your Options. San Angelo offers a variety of child care options for families. It is important to note that this handbook is not all inclusive. It covers those facilities and providers who hold a permit with Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and who responded to the survey as of 1/21/2010. Your child could attend any of the programs below.

- Child care centers. Child care centers care for larger groups of children. Children are usually separated by age groups and play only with children of their own age. As children grow older, they may be moved to a different age group. In most cases this also means they will have a different caregiver every year. Because young children develop very strong attachments to their caregivers, this practice can be unsettling for some children. Moves should be based on development and what is best for your child. If you have concerns about a move, please talk with the child care director and your pediatrician to ensure it is best for your child’s development. Child care centers are licensed by the state, which requires certain basic standards for health and safety.

- Family child care home. The caregiver, who is often a parent, provides care in his or her home. Family child care homes that voluntarily choose to register with the state will agree to meet certain minimum standards. “Registered” family child care homes usually care for a small group of children—usually six or less. Family child care homes should offer a cozy, home-like setting and the opportunity for siblings to stay together. It is important to note that child care homes recognized as “listed” are not inspected by the state.

- In-home care. The caregiver comes to or lives in your home. In-home care works well if you need care for an infant or toddler, after-school care, or evening and weekend care. In-home care is convenient, but can be costly. You also may be responsible for paying social security and workers compensation for your in-home provider. In-home caregivers are not regulated by the state.

- Head Start. Head Start is a full day or part day program that cares for children and provides educational learning activities. SAISD Head Start programs are Texas School Ready Certified. In 2009, SAISD Head Start programs underwent an intense federal audit resulting in no deficiencies—a goal that only 20% of programs nationwide attain. These programs are located at Day, Blackshear, and Rio Vista schools. Services are free as long as the parent / guardian is enrolled in school or working.

- SAISD. SAISD schools offer programs for pre-kindergarten children and some also offer before- and after-school programs for school-age children. Call your local elementary to determine if your school offers pre-kindergarten program and eligibility requirements.

Do Your Homework. After you have identified the best 3 or 4 options for your child, make sure to conduct an in-depth review in the state’s online database. Go to www. txchildcaresearch.org. You may enter criteria to get a list of providers that includes addresses and phone numbers or search by name. Click on the names of providers to do further research about a provider’s licensing history and compliance with minimum health and safety standards. Call the local Child Care Licensing office at (325) 657-8833 or visit 622 S. Oakes St., Suite L. The agency can provide more information on the programs, costs, availability and accessibility of the individual providers. Providers with permits (licensed facilities and registered homes) from Texas Department of Family and Protective Service must undergo both criminal and Child Protective Services central registry checks every two years.

Identify the Best Fit For Your Child.

- Make Multiple Visits. We recommend that parents make multiple visits to facilities to gain a firsthand knowledge of the child care program.

- Talk to Other Parents. Talk to other parents to get firsthand knowledge of what each facility offers. It is important to talk with parents whose children are currently enrolled in the facility as many program’s performance fluctuates depending on staff changes and other issues. You may also ask the facility for references.
- **Planning for the Visit.** In preparation for this visit, you should take a checklist with you to remind you of things to look for, and to record your observations. If you have additional questions, add them to the checklist. If appropriate, take your child along and observe their reaction to the program. A checklist of important items to consider is included in this booklet. Take this checklist and use it as a worksheet as you interview each child care provider.

- **Visiting the Program.** During the visit remember that you are the consumer, and you have the right to ask as many questions as you want. Before making your decision about a child care provider, you should visit several facilities. Compare the results of the checklists to determine the best suited program for your child. The more you know, the easier your decision will be, and the more comfortable you will feel making it.
## CHILD CARE CHART

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<td>106 Laura DR</td>
<td>212-9243</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mosaic Redwine Child Care</td>
<td>5191 S Bryant</td>
<td>651-8434</td>
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<tr>
<td>My Little School</td>
<td>1623 Kenwood</td>
<td>655-4756</td>
<td>81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pumpkin Patch Preschool</td>
<td>3302 Green Meadow</td>
<td>947-1113</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rio Vista Head Start</td>
<td>2800 Ben Ficklin RD</td>
<td>659-3669</td>
<td>196</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Angelo Day Nursery</td>
<td>619 Julian</td>
<td>653-1825</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sierra Vista Methodist CDC</td>
<td>4522 College Hills</td>
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<td>140</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwest Childrens Academy</td>
<td>3434 Green Meadow</td>
<td>944-1110</td>
<td>175</td>
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<tr>
<td>ST Luke Christian Child Dev Ctr</td>
<td>2781 W Ave N</td>
<td>949-8311</td>
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<td>The Learning Center</td>
<td>2007 Industrial Ave</td>
<td>949-3302</td>
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<td>TLC Preschool</td>
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<td>Trinity Lutheran Early Childhood Ctr</td>
<td>3512 YMCA DR</td>
<td>947-1148</td>
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<td>Wild Little Indians DC Center</td>
<td>629 E 19th</td>
<td>655-6515</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Scholars Academy</td>
<td>2006 Pulliam</td>
<td>655-4458</td>
<td>102</td>
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* Parents must be working or enrolled in school / ** Full-time is defined by services provided at least M-F, 7am-5:30pm

## CHILD CARE - HOME PROVIDERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Infant</th>
<th>Toddler</th>
<th>Preschool</th>
<th>School Age</th>
<th>Full-time hrs</th>
<th>Half-Day</th>
<th>TX Child Care</th>
<th>Pre-K Certified</th>
<th>Bilingual classes</th>
<th>Video (inside)</th>
<th>Video (outside)</th>
<th>Eligibility Req's</th>
<th>School Transp.</th>
<th>Religion-based</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christen Unger</td>
<td>302 E 44th</td>
<td>655-3423</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debbie Simpson</td>
<td>3411 College Hills BLVD</td>
<td>947-8495</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denise Nadeau</td>
<td>2609 Colorado AVE</td>
<td>223-5411</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dora’s Daycare (Dora Hendricks)</td>
<td>3834 High Meadow</td>
<td>944-3660</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evelyn’s Home Day Care (Evelyn Favre)</td>
<td>3230 North ST</td>
<td>949-0393</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle’s Family Day Care (Michelle Mutka)</td>
<td>1231 Henry LN</td>
<td>653-4240</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Jane’s (Ms. Jane)</td>
<td>414 Angelo BLVD</td>
<td>653-6016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pam’s Play School (Pam Salas)</td>
<td>3018 Canyon Creek</td>
<td>949-6466</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sally’s School (Sally B. Hernandez)</td>
<td>153 Stoneham</td>
<td>651-2062</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Parents must be working or enrolled in school / ** Full-time is defined by services provided at least M-F, 7am-5:30pm
Certifications
- It is recommended to look for providers that are certified as they must meet additional performance measures than other providers. Below are certifications some facilities in San Angelo offer. See chart (p.) to see which providers are certified.

  • **Texas School Readiness** (as defined by the School Readiness Certification System Task Force) “Children being ready to succeed by being able to function competently in a school environment in the areas of early literacy, early math, and social skills as objectively measured by Children's Learning Institute approved assessments.”
  
  • **Texas Rising Star (TRS)** provider is a child care provider that has an agreement with a Local Workforce Development Board's child care contractor to serve board sub-subsidized children and that voluntarily meets requirements that exceed the State's Minimum Child Care Licensing Standards for health and safety, group size, child/staff ratios, caregiver training, and age-appropriate curricula and activities.
  
  • **Texas Early Education Mode (TEEM)**. The TEEM program prepares children for entry into the school system after completing kindergarten, and has three vital instructional components. 1. Research based curriculum with an emphasis on literacy; 2. Ongoing professional development with in-classroom mentoring; 3. Personal digital assistant progress monitoring.

Curriculum
- It is recommended that a curriculum and set routine be used for your children. The curriculum may include daily exercises in story time / reading, music, arts/crafts, etc. Some curricula, such as, ABEKA, Scholastic, and others require staff to be trained in delivery. The facility should provide each parent with a copy of the day's schedule.

Bilingual classes offered for children
- This category designates only providers who offer an actual Spanish class or incorporate a Spanish curriculum.

Bilingual staff
- This category may be particularly important for monolingual parents or grandparents to be able to interact with child care staff.

Video Monitoring (Inside)
- Many child care providers have adopted a video monitoring system for each classroom. In larger cities, parents may log on from work to check on their child, catch glimpses of possible “firsts,” or monitor the interactions between staff and child.

Video Monitoring (Outside)
- This category identifies which providers utilize video surveillance outside the facility or in the entry.

Eligibility Requirements
- This category designates programs requiring parents of children who attend to be working or enrolled in school.

Transportation from school to facility
- This category identifies providers that pick children up from school and transport to facility. Some providers pick up only from designated schools so please call to get actual locations.

Religion-based
- This category identifies facilities who may receive support from churches to operate. These providers may include religion-based instruction in their curriculum and / or chapel time.
WHY QUALITY MATTERS

When it comes to child care, the quality of care is directly related to the benefits your child will receive. Though all child care operations with permits from the state must follow a set of minimum standards to maintain their permit, research shows that moving beyond those standards yields great benefits for a child’s social, emotional and physical development.

Quality programs include those operations that provide challenging but achievable curriculum which actively engage children in thinking, reasoning, and communicating with others. Below are some characteristics of quality child care operations you may want to consider.

- **Quality child care providers foster the development of a bond between child and a primary caretaker.** If both parents have to work, it’s important to make sure your provider is structured so that your child can bond to a primary caretaker and feel secure in their environment. When young children are securely attached in stable relationships to their child care providers, they are more socially competent with adults and peers. Your child should have the same child care worker they can bond to and engage with, not a floater that is in the room once per week. Greater staff stability is linked to better educational and developmental outcomes for children. Stable attachments with their child care providers lay the foundation for children’s later developmental outcomes, from academic performance to mental health and social skills.

- **Quality child care providers have low staff turnover.** For optimal learning a daycare provider should have a turnover rate of less than 30%. Staff turnover can result in vacancies being filled by less qualified staff and in poor continuity of care, raising the chances that child care providers will not develop optimal, responsive relationships with children! Child-care providers with job stability are more attentive to children and engage them more often.

- **Quality child care providers engage infants and toddlers in a secure, familiar environment with frequent repetition.** Infants and toddlers learn best when they are actively involved and engaged with the people they love and trust and when they are in a secure, familiar environment that offers frequent repetition. Also, the daycare should have a structured routine, the child should not be moved to a new room frequently, and should have short and frequent activities (i.e. story time, singing, etc.) daily.

- **Quality child care facilities maintain low staff-to-child ratios.** The Staff-to-Child Ratio is especially important to your child’s learning and development. Staff-to-child ratios are one of the more sensitive indicators of quality of care, across settings and for both younger and older children. Children who are enrolled in child care programs with low student-to-teacher ratios score higher on tests of language and cognition. Providers in these programs are better able to give sensitive and stimulating care, and children appear less apathetic and distressed. Conversely, children in settings with high child-adult ratios were more likely to be uninvolved in classroom activities.

- **Quality child care providers have staff with specialized education and training in child development.** Child care staff who have more specialized education and training in child development tend to give more sensitive care and the children they care for have better developmental outcomes, in both center-based and family care. Ideally direct staff are Pre-Kindergarten certified with an educational background in Early Childhood Development.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHECKLIST QUESTIONS</th>
<th>Caregiver/Program #1</th>
<th>#2</th>
<th>#3</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health and Safety</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Is it clean and comfortable, enough space for activities, good light, heat, air, ventilation?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the childcare license or registration displayed?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are there safety gates, safety caps on outlets, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers?</td>
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<td>Are nutritious snacks and meals provided? Is there a menu posted?</td>
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<td>Is there a first aid kit? Is someone trained in first aid/CPR?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do staff members follow health precautions such as using gloves and washing hands frequently?</td>
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<td>Are toys and furniture in good shape? How often are they cleaned?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are the bathrooms clean and easily accessible?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are medicines and cleaning supplies locked up?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the outdoor play area safe? Free from hazards and litter? fenced?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Routines and Procedures</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Are children and parents greeted warmly when they arrive?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is there a regular daily schedule? Is it posted and/or given to parents?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the staff/child ratio?</td>
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<td>Are there separate areas for active play and quiet play?</td>
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<td>How much TV are children allowed to watch?</td>
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<td>Is there a toilet training policy?</td>
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<tr>
<td>How is discipline handled?</td>
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<td>How are naps handled?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is there a daily method of communication between staff and parents?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Learning and Play</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Are there plenty of toys and are they in good condition?</td>
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<td>Are there different toys that are developmentally appropriate for different age groups?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are there blocks, puzzles, games, drawing, painting, and crafts?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are different kinds of activities offered throughout the day?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are the children read to on a regular basis? Are there lots of different kinds of books available?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do caregivers ask and answer questions and encourage creative thinking?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are the children taught nursery rhymes and songs?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Miscellaneous</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Is your first reaction upon entering the child care center a positive one?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do staff members seem to be happy, calm, affectionate?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have the majority of the staff members worked in the program 2 or more years?</td>
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211 - This site will give parents another way to search for local childcare centers and to find the one that is the best for their child. Call 211 Texas and ask to learn more about the Child Care Management Services. https://www.211texas.org/211/

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION / HOWARD COLLEGE - Provides instruction in the basic skills of reading, writing, and mathematics to adult learners in order to prepare them for transitioning into the labor market or higher academic or vocational training. 1100 Martin Luther King Dr, San Angelo, TX (325) 481-8324

ADULT LITERACY COUNCIL - Assists individuals in developing adult education, English as a Second Language (ESL), and workforce skills. 59 E. 6TH ST. SAN ANGELO, TX 76903 (325) 657-0013

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE COUNCIL FOR THE CONCHO VALLEY - Offers many outreach, prevention, and treatment programs for drug and alcohol abuse. 3553 Houston Harte P.O. Box 3805 San Angelo, Texas 76902 (325) 224-3481

AREA AGENCY ON AGING - Addresses the needs of older people and their caregivers such as: benefits counseling, advocacy, and also offers a support group for grandparents raising grandchildren. 2801 W. Loop 306, Suite A San Angelo, TX 76904 (325) 223-5704

CHILD CARE SERVICES (CCS) - This is a program of the Texas Workforce Commission helps eligible parents with the cost of child care. Visit this site to see the qualifications needed to receive help with child care costs from this service. Call 1-800-628-5115 and ask to learn more about the Child Care Services www.cvworkforce.org/child_care.asp or Workforce Solutions of the Concho Valley at (325) 653-2321 to get more info as well. https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/About_Child_Care_Licensing/cost_assistance.asp

COMMUNITY MEDICAL ASSOCIATES - a group0 of medical care providers including: OB/GYNs, internists, family medicine and pediatricians, specialists in cardiology, gastroenterology, rheumatology, diabetes management, podiatry, and neurology. | Community Medical Associates | 2142 Sunset Drive | San Angelo, TX | 76904 (325) 245-4CMA

CONCHO VALLEY FAMILY ALLIANCE (CVFA) / CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER OF TOM GREEN COUNTY, INC - A partnership between parents, agencies, business leaders, churches, and other community residents committed to strengthening families and the community of the Concho Valley through education, services, advocacy, and empowerment. 317 Koberlin St. San Angelo, Texas 76903 (325) 653-4673 www.cactomgreen.org

CONCHO VALLEY HOME FOR GIRLS/CHILDREN’S EMERGENCY SHELTER - A home for girls who can no longer live at home. The Children’s Emergency Shelter is temporary emergency housing for both boys and girls. 412 PREUSSER ST San Angelo Tx, 76903 (325) 655-3821

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA) / CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER OF TOM GREEN COUNTY, INC - Staff and volunteers serve as advocates for abused and neglected children whose home placements are being decided by a court of law. 317 Koberlin St. San Angelo, Texas 76903 (325) 653-4673 www.cactomgreen.org

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES - Child Care Licensing- Regulates all child-care operations; establishes and monitors operations for compliance with licensing standards, rules, and law; informs parents and the public about child care and about the histories of specific homes and child-care operations in complying with minimum standards of care; provides technical assistance to providers on meeting licensing standards, rules, and law. 622 S. Oakes St. Mail Code: 3441 San Angelo, Texas 76904 Call 325-657-7400

DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES - “Parents, guardians and child care providers should select a toy or article that is appropriate for that child’s age.” For more information call (512) 834-6788 Extension 2301- Dana Shuler). Visit this site to see appropriate products for children depending on their age. http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/hazpro/toys.shtm

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION (ECI) - This is a statewide program for families with children, birth to three, with disabilities and developmental delays. ECI supports families to help their children reach their potential through developmental services. http://www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/index.shtml 612 S. Irene San Angelo, TX (325) 658-6571 ext. 4015
FAMILY ENRICHMENT SERVICES (FES) / CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER OF TOM GREEN COUNTY, INC - Provides parenting education, resource coordination, whole-family education and skill development, family counseling, parent support groups, and parent mentoring services. Services are offered for families in all stages who have children ages 0-17. Services are offered in the home or in a group atmosphere in Tom Green, Concho, Crockett, and Runnels counties. 317 Koberlin St. San Angelo, Texas 76903 (325) 653-4673 www.cactomgreen.org

FAMILY PLANNING - Provides birth control and family planning services. 1928 Pecos St, San Angelo, TX 76901. (325) 944-9274

FAMILY SHELTER ICD BRIDGES - Offers a crisis hotline for domestic violence, emergency shelter, counseling, transportation, public education, and batterers intervention program. P.O. Box 5018, San Angelo, TX, 76902 (325) 655-5774

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - works WITH partner families to build houses that are sold with no-profit added and are financed with an affordable, no-interest mortgage. 401 N Chadbourne St, San Angelo, TX (325) 655-7535

HEAD START / EARLY HEAD START - provides comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children and families, with a special focus on helping children from birth to age five develop the early reading and math skills they need to be successful in school. Blackshear-(325) 658-7442, Day (325) 481-3395, Rio Vista-(325) 659-3669

HEALTH DEPARTMENT - Provides a variety of medical services to families in need including immunizations and vaccinations. 2030 Pulliam St., Suite 8 San Angelo, Texas 76903. (325) 657-4214

HIGH SKY CHILDREN’S RANCH - STAY TOGETHER PROGRAM- provides parenting education in homes and group atmospheres. 3136 Executive Dr, San Angelo, TX 76904 (325) 947-7233

LA ESPERANZA CLINIC INC - Provides medical, dental and mental health services to Tom Green County and surrounding counties without regard to ability to pay. 1610 South Chadbourne Street San Angelo, TX 76903 (325) 658-5339

MENTAL HEALTH MENTAL RETARDATION (MHMR) OF THE CONCHO VALLEY - Provides services to individuals with a mental illness and/or mental retardation identified as a priority population. 1501 W. Beauregard San Angelo, Texas 76901 (325) 658-7750

PARENT CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM / WEST TEXAS REHAB CENTER Service to parents with special needs children. 3001 South Jackson Street San Angelo, TX 76904 (325) 223-6350

PLANNED PARENTHOOD - Provides birth control and family planning services. 2010 Pecos Street San Angelo, TX 76901 (325) 944-1909

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY (PHA) - provides affordable housing for low-income families. 420 E 28th St. San Angelo, Texas 76903 (325) 481-2500

RAPE CRISIS CENTER - Offers a 24-hour rape crisis hotline, individual support for victims of violent crime, support groups, therapy, referrals, technical assistance, and follow-up. 2002 Colorado St. San Angelo Tx 76902 (325) 655-2000

REBUILDING TOGETHER - improves housing conditions for those in need. 138 W Concho Ave, San Angelo, TX 76903 (325) 657-8427

RIVERCREST HOSPITAL - a modern 80-bed hospital, specializing in the treatment of behavioral health and chemical dependency disorders for all ages. Provides evaluation, crisis stabilization, treatment, education, prevention, and aftercare. 1636 Hunters Glen Road San Angelo, TX 76901 (325) 949-5722

SAFE KIDS COALITION Goal is to reduce unintentional childhood deaths through public awareness, education, public policy advocacy, and community action. 4204 Billie Bolin Drive San Angelo, TX 76904 (325) 947-6130

SAMARITAN PASTORAL COUNSELING CENTER - Diagnosis and treatment for most mental health disorders, offering faith sensitive counseling. (325) 944-2561

**SHANNON COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS**  Runs a program that helps youth make right choices and discouraging risky behavior; “Right Choices for Youth” coalition.  2018 Pulliam Street San Angelo, TX 76905 (325) 657-5264

**SHANNON CLINIC** - provides primary and specialized medical care  120 E Beauregard Ave San Angelo, TX 76903 658-1511

**SHANNON CLINIC** - Pediatrics- provides medical care to children  (325)481-2287 225 E. Beauregard 76903

**TEXAS CHILDCARE SEARCH** - This site allows you to search for child care services and provides details regarding performance and findings from the Child Care Licensing. Child Care Licensing monitors providers to ensure compliance with standards.  www.txchildcaresearch.org

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES** - Mission is to protect the unprotected - children, the elderly and the disabled from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.  622 South Oakes, Suite L San Angelo, Texas 76903 (325) 657-7400 To report abuse and neglect call: 1-800-252-5400.

**TEXAS HUNGER INITIATIVE** - Works to combat hunger in San Angelo. Provides free breakfasts and lunches through the summer months. Current locations include: Lake View High School, Bonham, Fannin, Glenmore and Reagan elementary schools and Rio Vista Head Start. For more information, e-mail sanangelohunger@gmail.com. For information about statewide activities, go to www.texashunger.org.

**TOM GREEN COUNTY COALITION AGAINST VIOLENCE** A group of agency and individual members who focus on domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. P.O. Box 5018, San Angelo, TX, 76902 (325) 655-5774

**WEST TEXAS BOYS RANCH** A home for boys who for one reason or another are not able to remain in their own homes. 10223 Boys Ranch Road San Angelo, TX 76904 (325) 949-1936

**WOMEN INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC)** - Nutrition program based on income levels that help families to eat well by providing nutrition, education, vouchers to buy healthy food, support and help with breast-feeding, referrals and immunizations.  72 West College Avenue San Angelo, TX 76903 (325) 657-4396

**WEST TEXAS MEDICAL ASSOCIATES (WTMA)** - a group of primary care providers and specialists who offer a variety of medical services to families. 3555 Knickerbocker Rd. San Angelo TX, 76904 (325) 949-9555

**Women Infants Children (WIC)** - WIC is a nutrition program that provides nutrition and health education, healthy food and other services free of charge to Massachusetts families who qualify. WIC stands for Women, Infants and Children. To apply for WIC, call 1-800-WIC-1007 or contact our local WIC program here in San Angelo at (325) 657-4396 72 W College Ave San Angelo, TX
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL - Centers for Disease Control- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Parent Portal: Information to help parent raise healthy kids and provide a safe home and community. Call 800-CDC-INFO and ask to learn more about centers for disease control and prevention parent portal http://www.cdc.gov/parents/

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS (CSHCN) - This program connects parents with community resources and support for children with special health care needs. Call the CSHCN Inquiry Line at 1-800-252-8023 Toll Free and ask to learn more about “Children With Special Health Care Needs” http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/CSHCN/

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES - A Parent’s Guide to Day Care: “There are many different child-care choices available and the quality of individual programs can vary widely. It is your responsibility to choose the right child-care operation and place your child where they will learn and thrive.” Call the DFPS office 512-438-4800 and ask to learn more about “A Parent’s Guide to Day Care. http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Other_Child_Care_Information/childcare_types.asp

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES - Don’t Be In The Dark About Child Care: “Working with a variety of community partners throughout the state, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services is setting out to increase awareness of the dangers of unregulated childcare.” Call the DFPS office 512-438-4800 and ask to learn more about Don’t be in the dark about child care movement. http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/dontbeinthedark/default.asp

IMMUNIZE TEXAS - Information regarding Immunizations. www.immunizetexas.org

MEDICALLY DEPENDENT CHILDREN’S PROGRAM (MDCP) - This program connects families with support services they may need for children with special needs. Call 512-438-3011 or 1-800-458-9858 http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/MDCP/index.cfm

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN www.naeyc.org or 1-800-424-2400

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY CHILD CARE www.nafcc.org

NATIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM ACCREDITATION www.necpa.net

Reporting Child Abuse and/or Neglect www.texasabusehotline.org or 1-800-252-5400

TEXAS PARENT TO PARENT - This program provides support and information for families and children with disabilities, chronic illness, and other special needs. For more information call toll-free: 866-896-6001 http://www.txp2p.org/

TEXAS PROFESSIONAL HOME CHILDCARE ASSOCIATION - The momentum created by the interest of family child care generated a dynamic organization dedicated to quality home child care in order to best serve the children, parents, and providers in Texas. Visit the website at http://www.tphc.ca.org/ or call at (806)468-8859

TEXAS WORKFORCE - the mission of the Concho Valley Workforce Development Board (CVWDB) is to promote the economic well-being of all residents through the delivery of employer-driven and customer-centered services. It is the abiding intention of the Board to ensure that every Concho Valley resident has the opportunity to work in their chosen field and at their highest desired capacity. Call (325) 653-2321 or visit their website at www.cvworkforce.org

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