

Employee Child Care Guide

Child Care Tips and Resources



Need Help Finding Child Care?



[Quality Care for Children](#) is a Georgia nonprofit organization that has been operating for over 30 years and is the single source of child care referrals for the state of Georgia. It's easy: Call 1-877-ALL-GA-KIDS (1-877-255-4254) for the helpline or www.allgakids.org to conduct an online search.

- Need help finding child care for a special needs child?
- Need help in finding child care during non-traditional hours (like evenings or weekends)?
- Looking for a Pre-K program, summer camp or, after-school program?

Quality Care for Children can help. Staff work with families to understand their needs and desires, and to help parents make informed decisions. Let Quality Care for Children help you today!

Are you taking advantage of federal and state tax credits to help make child care more affordable?

- There is a federal tax credit for child care expenses that allows a modest credit against individual/family taxes owed.
- There is a business employee benefit that enables employees to set-aside money for child care tax-free that can be used to reimburse some child care expenses.
- There is a Georgia tax credit for child care expenses that can be taken in addition to the federal child care tax credit.

To double check that you are taking advantage of tax incentives for child care affordability, check out <http://bit.ly/1f66Rmc> today.

Need help affording the cost of child care?

For low-income families, child care subsidies are available based on family income. To find out more about Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program to help low income families afford quality child care, check out the CAPS program under Georgia's Department of Early Care and Learning, Bright from the Start web page on child care subsidies. Eligible families can earn up to about 150 percent of the federal poverty level and still potentially qualify for child care subsidies. In 2014 in Georgia, qualifying families with annual income up to \$22,404 for a family of two, \$28,164 for a family of three, \$33,924 for a family of four and \$39,684 for a family of five may be eligible for a subsidy to help make child care more affordable.

- For more information about the CAPS program: <http://dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov/subsidized-child-care-assistance>
- To apply for child care subsidies: <https://compass.ga.gov/selfservice/>

Quality Rated child care is new for Georgia. What is it? How does it work? Why should parents look for quality rated programs?



It's hard for parents to compare child care settings and to know the differences among settings. Parents want their children to be safe. Parents also want settings that will promote the healthy development of their children.

Quality Rated is a systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early education and school-age care programs. The Quality Rated system in Georgia is an effort to take the guesswork for parents out of choosing child care. Quality Rated assigns a quality rating (one star, two stars, or three stars) to early education and school-age care programs that meet a set of defined program standards. The system is voluntary for child care providers. However, the star approach is helpful to programs for continuous quality improvement and helpful to parents in providing a quality guide to choosing child care.

Why should parents look for quality rated programs? Research has found that the quality of care children receive in their child care settings dramatically affects their social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development. Research has also shown, even into the teen years, that high quality settings during the early years of life, have made a difference in social and emotional development and school performance (in both the short-term and the long-term).

For more on Georgia's Quality Rated system, see <http://qualityrated.org/>.

Parent Tips:

Tips on finding child care – Make a Plan:

<http://www.qualitycareforchildren.org/parent-child-care-planning>

Quality Care for Children's Child Care Checklist:

<http://bit.ly/1nGBz5a>

For key questions to ask child care providers:

<http://bit.ly/1rmdoJy>

To boost your child care vocabulary (i.e., understanding the terms that are used, the types of care available, and other helpful resources in finding child care):

<http://bit.ly/1fpR7Fr>

