

# HIGH QUALITY CHILD CARE MATTERS

The first five years of a child's life are critical learning years that shape later success. 90% of the brain develops by the age of five. Consider this information when looking for a child care program to support your child's growth.

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## TYPES OF CHILD CARE FACILITIES & ADULT TO CHILD RATIOS

### Child Care Center

Birth –23 months



2-3 years old



4 years old



5 years old and up



### FAMILY HOME CHILD CARE



1:8 ratio, maximum of 8 children  
No more than 3 children under the age of 2

### GROUP HOME CHILD CARE



Same ratio as Family Home Child care,  
Maximum of 15 children  
6 under the age of 2 with 2 caregivers present

**\*EXCEPTION:** preschool programs are not required to be licensed by the state of Montana, but may still provide high-quality learning environments with similar adult to child ratios.

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## ASK THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

### LEARNING

- Are the play spaces organized with age-appropriate toys, books, puzzles, blocks etc.
- Is there structured and unstructured play time?
- Are there opportunities to read and sing throughout the day?
- Is the program following the national guidelines for screen time?

### COMMUNICATION

- Are parents welcome in the facility? Do they get copies of the policies?
- Is regular communication with families happening?

### SUPERVISION

- Are children always supervised? Even during rest time?
- Are caregivers warm, welcoming, and interactive with the children?
- Are clear and simple safety rules established?
- Is clear, consistent, and fair guidance being used with the children?
- Is there appropriate staff to child ratio?

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Are proper health and safety procedures being used?
- Is a caregiver present at all times certified in First aid/CPR?
- Is there an emergency plan in place?
- Is there adequate outside time built into the daily schedule?
- Is breast feeding supported?

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## Consider the 10 NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) Program standards.

1	<b>Relationships</b>	•The program promotes positive relationships among all children and adults.
2	<b>Curriculum</b>	•The program implements a curriculum that is consistent with its goals for children and promotes learning and development in each of the following areas: social, emotional, physical, language, and cognitive.
3	<b>Teaching</b>	•The program uses developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate and effective teaching approaches that enhance each child's learning and development in the context of the curriculum goals.
4	<b>Assessment of Child Progress</b>	•The program is informed by ongoing systematic, formal, and informal assessment approaches to provide information on children's learning and development.
5	<b>Health</b>	•The program promotes the nutrition and health of children and protects children and staff from illness and injury.
6	<b>Staff Competencies, Preparation, and Support</b>	•The program employs and supports a teaching staff with the educational qualifications, knowledge, and professional commitment necessary to promote children's learning and development and to support families' diverse needs and interests.
7	<b>Families</b>	•The program establishes and maintains collaborative relationships with each child's family to foster children's development in all settings. These relationships are sensitive to family composition, language, and culture.
8	<b>Community Relationships</b>	•The program establishes relationships with and uses the resources of the children's communities to support the achievement of program goals.
9	<b>Physical Environment</b>	•The program has a safe and healthful environment that provides appropriate and well-maintained indoor and outdoor physical environments.
10	<b>Leadership and Management</b>	•The program effectively implements policies, procedures, and systems that support stable staff and strong personnel, and fiscal, and program management so all children, families, and staff have high-quality experiences.

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## LOOK FOR THESE QUALITY INDICATORS



## CONTACT BUTTE 4-C'S FOR MORE INFORMATION

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