

Quality Child Care Options

Consider Your Options

Your first question should be "What type of care best meets my child's needs?"

Several types are available outside the home and each offers its own benefits:

- **Child Care Center** *Care and educational activities offered to a group of children in a licensed, non-residential setting accommodating more than five children*
- **Family Child Care Home** *Care and educational activities offered to a group of five children or less in the home of a person who provides the care. Licensed*
- **School-Age Child Care** *Programs for children ages 5 through 12 covering before and after school time; some offer school holiday programs and other times when school is not in session. These may be in schools, child care centers, family child care homes, youth organizations and religious organizations.*
- **Mom and Me Programs** *Mom and Me programs are designed to bring parents and their infants or toddlers together. Developmentally appropriate activities are offered to help parents learn more about child development in a social, supportive atmosphere.*
- **Play Groups** *Play groups are part-week, part-day programs designed to give toddlers and young preschool children an opportunity for socialization. Programs may be offered by licensed child care centers, by church or temple groups, by local parks and recreation programs, or by parent groups.*
- **Summer Camps** *These day camps are offered in public and private schools, child care centers, family child care homes, religious organizations and youth organizations, and through the county and municipalities. Licensing is not required*
- **Head Start/ Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)** *A high quality program with an early literacy focus. It is free for all children 4 years old on or before September 1st, who reside in Florida.*