



Finding Quality Child Care

The early years of a child's life are a time when their foundation for learning and development is built. **Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families (JI)** is here to help families navigate finding quality child care, so children build early and build strong for a future of life-long success. Visiting our website is a great place to start. You'll find details about all resources listed below, and you're encouraged to call us if you need additional assistance.



Scan the QR codes or click the websites to visit the links



Visit us! [Jointinitiatives.org/find-child-care](https://jointinitiatives.org/find-child-care)

This page on the Joint Initiatives website provides information on finding quality child care, financial assistance, resources for military families, and additional learning and development supports. JI's early childhood program is known as *Foundations*, and you'll find more pages for families under its menu.



Search for Quality Care • [ColoradoShines.com](https://coloradoshines.com)

This website helps families search all licensed programs, view their quality rating, licensing reports, and program details such as hours and ages served.



Learn About Options • Call [1.877.338.2273](tel:1.877.338.2273)

This is the Colorado Shines Child Care Resource and Referral phone line for receiving free, personalized support with your child care search.



Learn about + apply for Universal Preschool • [Jointinitiatives.org/UPKfamilies](https://jointinitiatives.org/UPKfamilies)

Free Universal Preschool is available to all children during the school year prior to entering kindergarten. This page shares important dates and the link to the application.



JI Family Resource Navigators • [719.684.4326](tel:719.684.4326) or [719.960.7336](tel:719.960.7336) (Español)

JI's Family Resource Navigators are available to connect you with community resources to meet your family's unique needs, including Universal Preschool.



Ready to visit programs? Take the checklist!

Visiting early childhood programs is key to making your decision. The checklist on the back provides items to consider and may help guide the questions you ask.



NEED ASSISTANCE OR HAVE QUESTIONS?



719.205.2691

Quality Child Care Checklist

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- ☐ Equipment is clean and in good repair.
- ☐ Electrical outlets are covered.
- ☐ Emergency routes and emergency numbers are posted.
- ☐ The doors are locked, and visitors are required to sign in.
- ☐ All toys are clean and in good condition.
- ☐ The playground has safe surfaces, is fenced, and has both sun and shade.

ENVIRONMENT BASICS

- ☐ The room is warm and inviting.
- ☐ The children are happy and involved with both staff and with other children.
- ☐ The furniture is child-sized and the materials are at the children's level.
- ☐ Materials are age-appropriate, with enough supplies for children to use or to share.
- ☐ Different cultures and traditions are seen in the classroom.

DAILY ACTIVITIES

- ☐ Nutritious meals and snacks are provided.
- ☐ Nap and story time are built into the day.
- ☐ Puzzles, blocks, music, and make-believe stations are provided.
- ☐ Children have time to choose their own activities.
- ☐ Activities are varied and include both outdoor playtime and indoor quiet time.
- ☐ A daily schedule is posted.

TEACHER/CHILD INTERACTIONS

- ☐ There is shared respect between teachers and children.
- ☐ Teachers are at children's eye level when talking with them.
- ☐ Teachers listen to each child and use positive language when talking with them.
- ☐ Children are asked questions and not just given directions.
- ☐ The teacher attends to children who are upset.
- ☐ I am comfortable that my child's culture and traditions

