

#### **Burlington Community Action Partnership, Inc.**

718 Route 130 South Dr. Ruben Johnson Burlington, New Jersey 08016 Executive Director

Child Care Resource & Referral 609-386-5800

www.bccap.org

### NEW JERSEY CARES FOR KIDS CHILDCARE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM CCAP Application Check List

Income Eligibility Requirements (effective 3/12/21)									
Family size	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Maximum Annual Gross Family income	\$34,840	\$43,920	\$53,000	\$62,080	\$71,160	\$80,240	\$89,320	\$98,400	\$107,480

Full-Time Activity Minimum Requirement for Each Applicant and Co-Applicant

#### **Employment**

30 Hours per week

#### School or Training

12 College Credits per Fall or Spring Semester9 College Credits per Summer Semester20 Hours per Week of Training Program

The following verification must be submitted with your application:

- Complete all Sections of Application See detailed instructions on next page
- Proof of Address (lease, license, or utility bill)
- Copies of Children's Birth Certificates
- Copies of Children's Social Security Cards

#### Proof of Employment, School or Training Program:

- If employed Paystubs for the most recent four weeks
- If paystubs **do not** indicate hours worked An original employer letter stating exact hours worked per week (on letterhead, dated, with original signature, and job title of signee)
- If Self-Employed Federal Income Tax Return <u>and</u> Federal Income Tax transcript, with all Schedule W2's, and 1099's. Transcripts available from the IRS at <u>www.irs.gov/inviduals/get-transcript or 1-800-908-9846</u>.
- Half employment and half schooling
- Child support 6 months of payments
- School or training Detailed schedule including days and hours attending, class locations, credits, start and end dates of semester, and clearly indicate the names of the school and student.
- If school or training does not provide a detailed schedule Letter (on letterhead, dated, with original signature, and job title of signee), stating start and end date of program and hours per week attending.



**United Way** of Burlington County

Grow NJ Kids is New Jersey's program to raise the quality of child care and early learning across the state. It offers child care and early learning providers access to training, professional development, grants for equipment and materials, and staff scholarships for continuing education. Professional raters visit the program to review quality standards and then programs receive ratings — up to five stars — by meeting an extensive list of quality benchmarks. Go to *GrowNJKids.com* to find a participating provider near you.

#### **Social Service Programs with Child Care Components**

There are certain social service programs that include child care. To receive child care through one of the programs listed below, you must be participating in that program/service.

- Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Kinship ChildCare
- · Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) welfare
- Transitional Child Care (for former WFNJ recipients)
- Post Adoption Child Care

If you are participating in one of these programs and need child care, contact your CCR &R.

### **Important Information and Community Resources**

The New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development (DHS/DFD) works in partnership with service providers and other state and municipal agencies throughout the state to help families access quality programs and services that meet their needs. You can find more information by visiting www.ChildCareNJ.com or at www.NJ.gov/humanservices.

NJ Department of Human Services
Produced by the NJ DHS Publications Unit - (08/17)

# How to Apply for a NJ Child Care Subsidy



There is so much to think about when choosing child care. Balancing location, cost, quality and just feeling good about the child care provider can make this important decision challenging. New Jersey's child care program under the Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development can provide you with valuable information to help you make that selection. The state's child care program can support you with information about applying for child care assistance, where to find child care, licensing and complaint data and what makes a quality program.

As so many families know, child care costs can take up a lot of the monthly budget. The Child Care Subsidy Program can help lower-income families who are working, in training or in school, or a combination of these activities to pay a portion of their child care.

If you are thinking about or are applying for a child care subsidy, here's what you need to know.

#### Applying for a Child Care Subsidy

As an applicant/parent seeking a child care subsidy, you will be required to provide proof of income, training/school hours and household size to help determine eligibility. All required documents must be submitted to be considered for a subsidy.

#### Applicant(s)/Parents Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a New Jersey resident;
- Must meet income requirements and not have assets that exceed \$1 million:
- Must be working full time (30 hours or more), attending school full time (12 credits or more), or in job training (at least 20 hours a week); and
- Depending on family size and income, may have to contribute to the cost of care (co-pay).

#### **Child Eligibility Requirements**

- Up to the age of 13, or less than age 19, if under the NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency's protective supervision or mentally or physically incapable of self-care;
- · Must be a US Citizen or qualified non-citizen; and
- Must reside with parent(s), or individual(s) acting as parent(s) (in loco parentis).

#### **Provider Eligibility Requirements**

- Providers must be either a licensed child care provider, a registered family child care provider, or a home or summer camp that is approved by the state; and
- All providers must complete numerous health and safety trainings and required criminal background checks.

### Completing and Submitting an Application

To get started, you must first complete, sign and submit an application with the required documents to the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency in your county.

For a complete list of required documents, contact your CCR&R or visit www.ChildCareNJ.com



The CCR&R will review applications within 10 business days of receiving them and a final determination of eligibility will be made within 45 calendar days. You will receive a letter from the CCR&R telling you if you are eligible, not eligible, or if additional information is needed.



You can request an application by visiting or contacting your local CCR&R or printing one at www.ChildCareNJ.com.

#### **Payment**

Before payment can start, you must first be approved and sign the Parent/Applicant and Provider Agreement (PAPA) and e-Child Care agreement (ECC).

#### Parent Co-Payment and Additional Provider Fees

Families eligible to receive a subsidy are required to share the cost of child care; known as a co-pay. The co-payment is based on your family size, gross annual income, hours of care needed and the number of children in care. Co-pays are paid for the first two children only. The co-pay for any child thereafter will be zero.

#### Selecting a Child Care Program

Once your family has been determined eligible to receive child care assistance, you must choose a provider. To make the process move quickly, it is recommended that you find an eligible, quality provider prior to being approved. That means the provider must be licensed, registered or approved by the state.

If you need help finding a child care provider, the CCR&R can provide a list of providers that meet your family's needs. For a list of CCR&Rs, visit www.ChildCareNJ.com or call the NJ Child Care Hotline 1-800-332-9227.

### **Finding Quality Child Care**

Look for a Grow NJ Kids participating program.

Research shows that children who are in quality child care and early learning programs when they are young are better prepared for kindergarten with better reading skills, more math skills and larger vocabularies.

### **NJ CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM**

### **Documentation Checklist**

Below is a **general list** of required documents for each section of the Child Care Subsidy Program Application that must be submitted for **initial** eligibility consideration. Additional documents may also be required based on program requirements. Please contact and check with the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (CCR&R) if you have questions or need assistance. You can reach your local CCR&R at 1-800-332-9227 or by visiting www.ChildCareNJ.gov.

IDENTIFICATION	
For each applicant/co-applicant, <b>submit one</b> of the docume <b>Column A,</b> you may <b>submit two</b> documents from <b>Column</b>	
COLUMN A (PRIMARY DOCUMENTATION) Submit one:	COLUMN B (SECONDARY DOCUMENTATION) Submit two:
☐ Driver's License ☐ Government Issued Photo ID Card ☐ Military Photo ID Card ☐ Employer Issued Photo ID ☐ School Photo ID ☐ Passport ☐ Permanent Resident Card (Green Card)	High School Diploma, GED, or College Diploma Health Insurance Card or Prescription Card Printed Paystub Birth Certificate (applicant/co-applicant or child's) Social Security Card
ADDRESS	
For any applicant/co-applicant, <b>submit one</b> of the following  Current Rental/Lease Agreement or Mortgage Bill  Court decree (if applicable)  School records showing residence  Custody Agreement or other court documents for guardianship  *If you or your child are homeless and do not have a fixed address	Home utility bills Medical documentation Vehicle Registration or Title or NJ Driver's License Most recent filed tax forms showing dependency (For dependents 18+, must provide filed IRS 1040 Form)
RELATIONSHIP AND HOUSEH	OLD SIZE
For any child in need of child care services, submit the form Child's Birth Certificate Court decree (if applicable) Custody Agreement or other court documents for guardi	
For each <b>dependent residing in the home</b> and included in t	he family size, <b>submit one</b> of the following to verify family size:
☐ Birth Certificate ☐ Custody Agreement or other court documents for guardianship (if applicable)	<ul> <li>Court decree (if applicable)</li> <li>Most recent filed tax forms showing dependency</li> <li>(For dependents 18+, must provide filed IRS 1040 Form)</li> </ul>

### **NJ CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM**

### **Documentation Checklist Continued**

CHILD CITIZENSHIP STATUS	
For any child in need of care, <b>submit one</b> of the following:	
<ul> <li>☐ U.S. Birth Certificate</li> <li>☐ Certificate of Citizenship</li> <li>☐ U.S. Passport or Passport Card</li> <li>☐ Social Security Card</li> </ul>	Permanent Resident Card (Green Card) USCIS Form I-551 (Alien Registration Card) Refugee Travel Document (Form I-571) USCIS/INS Form I-94 stamped "Refugee", "Parolee", "Asylee", or "Notice of Action"
INCOME	
INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT:	OTHER INCOME OR BENEFITS TO FAMILY UNIT:
Must provide current one month's worth of current pay stubs (e.g. 4 weekly, 2 biweekly, etc.)	Documentation must show the rate and frequency of the income received from the sources below:  Unemployment documentation
NEW EMPLOYMENT ONLY: If paystubs are not available  Employer letter on company letterhead (signed/dated) Must include rate of pay, hours worked per week, employer contact information, and first date of employment; or  DFD "Verification of Employment" Form If approved for subsidy, applicant/co-applicant will be required to follow up with pay stubs.  SELF-EMPLOYED ONLY: Submit Current IRS Tax Transcript of Form 1040 Schedule C, "Profit or Loss from Business"	Pension documentation Worker's Compensation Social Security award letter Retirement/Pension Spousal Support/Alimony Veterans/Military Benefits Disability Benefits Child Support – minimum of 6 months of Payment/Disbursement History (Note: If child support or alimony is not court ordered, write the amount you receive monthly in Section C of the application) Any other income required for federal/state tax reporting purposes
"Parent Incapacitation Verification" Form	
SCHOOL/TRAINING	
For each applicant/co-applicant, <b>submit one</b> of the following	
<ul> <li>SCHOOL: Detailed school schedule naming the school a start and end date</li> <li>TRAINING PROGRAM: Letter on Program letterhead (date and weekly schedule</li> </ul>	and the student, including days and hours attending, credits, signed/dated) indicating name of program, start and end

DFD 10-17



# Child Care and Early Education Service Eligibility Application

STATE OF NEW JERSEY • DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

Burlington Community Action Partnership, Inc. 718 Route130 South Burlington, NJ 08016 609-835-4329

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Д	Applicant/Co-Applicant Inform	ation	Please	Read Instru	ictions,	Print Clea	rly, Answe	er All Qu	estions
	1. PARENT/APPLICANT NAME					SOCIAL SEC	JRITY NO.		F BIRTH
		☐ Asian No <b>S</b>	ı ⊟Blac ≣ <b>x</b> : ⊟Male	k or African Ame e □ Female	<i>propriate l</i> erican □ e	boxes to indicat Native Hawaii	an/Pacific Islar	<i>(Mo./</i> ponse. nder □ Wh	/Dy./Yr.) nite
	Relationship of APPLICANT to children:		other $\square$ Leg	gally Responsib	le Adult $\  \   \Box$				
	2. PARENT/CO-APPLICANT NAME (If Applicable)	e)				SOCIAL SEC	JRITY NO.		F BIRTH
	(Last) The following information is needed for statistic RACE: ☐ American Indian or Alaskan ETHNICITY: Hispanic/Latino: ☐ Yes ☐	☐ Asian	ı ⊟ Blac	k or African Am	erican 🗆	boxès to indicat	mber) e applicant resp an/Pacific Islar	(Mo./	Dy./Yr.)
	3. HOME ADDRESS (Number and Street)								
	City:						_Zip Code:		
	County:			School	District:				
	Family size includes parent, spouse, childrent IRS 1040. In cases of kinship, family size increlative's IRS 1040. For DYFS cases, a child be counted to determine the size of the family	ludes the ch and any of h y.	nild for whom s nis/her siblings	subsidy is reques	sted and al ne home ar	ll dependents cl nd who are in D	aimed on the gi	randparent's home place	s, aunt's or ement shall
В	Family Income Information	Informatio	nisnotrequiredf	or DYFS-paid careg	ivers.Payme	ntsforDYFSchildr come.	en in out of home pl	acement does	notcountas
	For each source, enter income information either by week, bi-weekly, month or year. Include child support and/or alimony.	WEEK		D-APPLICANT ome for current: MONTH	YEAR	WEEK	PARENT/CO- List gross incor 2 WEEKS		
	1. Wages and Salary (gross):								
	2. Pensions, Retirement:								
	3. Supplemental/Social Security Benefits:								
	4. Unemployment, Workmen's Compensation:								
	5. TANF Cash Assistance:								
	6. Child Support/Alimony:								
	7. Other: 8. TOTAL GROSS INCOME:								
			Pro	of of Current	School	I gistratio	n Must Re	Attached	
<u>ل</u>	Work/School/Training Information		Re	or ourrein	. 0011001	giotiatio			
	Name of <b>PRIMARY</b> Work/School/Training Site: Complete Address (Street, City, State, & Zip): (If applicable, enter "Self-Employed")		PARENT/CO	O-APPLICANT			PARENI/CO-A	(PPLICANT	
	Telephone Number:	( ) _ U Worl	,	chool Tra	ainina	( ) <u> </u>	Scho		Fraining
	Check One: Enter Starting Date (Mo/Dy/Yr):		t Date/	/ /	an in ig		Date/	/	
	Check One and Enter: Number of Hours/ Week and Months/Year for Work/School/Training	Full Tim	ne Part T al Employment		# Hrs/Wk # Mos/Yr	Full Time	Part Time I Employment	e	_# Hrs/Wk _# Mos/Yr
	Name of SECONDARY Work/School/Training Site:								
	Complete Address (Street, City, State, & Zip):								
	Telephone Number:	( ) _				( )			
	Check One: Enter Starting Date (Mo/Dy/Yr):	☐ Worl	k □ Se t Date /	chool	aining	☐ Work Start I	☐ Scho Date /	ol 🖂 🧻	Fraining
	Check One and Enter: Number of Hours/	☐ Full Tim	ne		# Hrs/Wk # Mos/Yr	☐ Full Time	Part Time	e	_# Hrs/Wk # Mos/Vr

YES NO	All Questions M Sup <sub>l</sub>	porting Docum	ents Must Be A	ttached For Verification	
	Are you currently participating in t	he Food Stamp Pro	ogram?		
	2. Are you currently receiving/have yo	•	_	ith a Temporary Assistance for Ne	edy Families (TANF) or
	Transitional Child Care (TCC) gran				years? If yes, indicate when
	benefits do/did expire by entering M				
	3. Is your family an active case with t	he Division of Youtl	h and Family Servic	ces (DYFS) and are the children for	or whom you are requesting
	subsidy residing with you? If yes, p	_			
	<ol><li>Are you currently receiving a TAN</li></ol>				
	5. Do you or a member of your family h		•	•	
	plan? If yes, indicate the name of	the individual/agen	cy authorizing the t	reatment plan and telephone num	nber:
	Agency Name:			Telephone #: ( ) _	
	<ol><li>Are you the head of the household</li></ol>	-			
	<ol><li>Are you currently homeless or at it</li></ol>	_			
	8. Are the children for whom you are re				
	home. If you are employed or pa				ed for DYFS purposes.
	<ol><li>Do you receive any cash or vouc</li></ol>			=	
	Are you requesting assistance becomes	-			
	ineligible for the Temporary Assista	•	, ,	, ,	
	1. I understand that I am applying to the				s in a comunity-based center
1	2. Do all of the children in this family			_	
	If NO, do you wish to receive an ap	pplication for NJ Fa	mily Care? $\Box$ Y	′es □ No	
Childre				ce and for Whom Assistan	
Informa	tion Use Ad	dendum Form	to Provide Info	rmation for Addiitonal Chi	ldren.
FULL NAMI	E OF CHILD NO. 1			SOCIAL SECURITY NO.	DATE OF BIRTH
	<i>a</i>	(=: .)			/
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Indicate the	hour/days/duration for which child car				
			need and attach v		
Child is a U	IS citizen or a qualified alien? NoYes [1]		ication (copy of So ble, Resident Alier		Certificate or,
AGENCYUS	SE: Status (Check One):		no, neonaem Amer		
		I ☐ Approved	☐ Waiting List	Pending	
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			_ •	Pending	omponent:
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### **Child Care and Early Education** Service Eligibility Application STATE OF NEW JERSEY • DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
Burlington Community Action Partnership, Inc. 718 Route 130 South Burlington, NJ 08016 609-386-5800

Doi	rent/Annlicent Name			~ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
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300	dai Security Number.			Dateors	7 <u>7</u>
	Complete for Each Add	ditional Chil	d for Whom `	You Are Requesting So	ubsidy
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### NJ CHILD CARESUBSIDY PROGRAM

### **Application Addendum**

All families receiving a subsidy through the NJ Child Care Subsidy Program must provide the following information:					
Are your family assets worth more than Note: Assets may include but are not limite	\$1,000,000? No Yes d to, personal bank accounts, business accounts, re	eal estate, and personal property.			
If the primary language spoken in your l	home is <u>not</u> English, please specify that langua	ige:			
Is the Applicant: On Full-Time Active Military Duty In the National Guard/Military Reserve Self-Employed Is there a Co-Applicant?	No Yes No Yes No Yes No Yes				
If yes, are they: On Full-Time Active Milit In the National Guard/Mi Self-Employed					
<ul> <li>Are you homeless based on one or more of the following?  No Yes</li> <li>Living in an emergency or transitional shelter.</li> <li>Staying in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or campground or sharing housing with other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason.</li> <li>Living in a car, bus/train station, park, abandoned building.</li> <li>Living or sleeping in any public or private place that is not normally used as a residence or as a regular sleeping accommodation.</li> <li>Living in substandard housing (i.e. no electricity, running water, etc.).</li> </ul>					
submitting false or misleading information	n provided is true and correct to the best of my on, intentionally omitting information or intentior termination from the child care program and I r	nally causing others to omit or fail to			
Applicant Name	Applicant Signature	Date			
Co-Applicant Name	Co-Applicant Signature	Date			

Note:

Name of CCR&R or CBC Provider:

### Child Care and Early Education Service Eligiblity Application Certification READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

I (we) hereby certify that all of the information provided is true and correct to the best of my (our) knowledge. I (we) know that submitting false information about my (our) situation, failing to give the necessary information or causing others to hold back information is against the law and may subject me (us) to prosecution. I (we) also understand that:

- 1. Acceptance of child care financial assistance is not for my (our) personal use or expenses and that federal, state and local public funds are and will be used as payment for costs that are directly associated with services rendered by a child care provider.
- 2. It is unlawful to obtain financial assistance for child care services by providing any false or misleading information, including but not limited to information about my eligibility and/or information that relates to child attendance for provider records, sign-in sheets or voucher payment forms. Examples of unlawful behavior include, but are not limited to:
  - Failing to accurately report all sources of my (our) income. Examples include, but are not limited to not reporting multiple sources of income, or an increase or decrease in wage/salary, child support payments, or alimony, or any other income.
  - Failing to accurately report the amount of my income. Examples include, but are not limited to reporting the accurate amount(s) of income from self-employment; rent from property ownership or changing or altering pay stub information.
  - Failing to accurately report the number of household members. Examples include, but are not limited to failing to report that my spouse or another parent/guardian is living in the household.
  - Pre-signing and dating voucher certification forms, sign-in sheets or other provider records used to track and verify child attendance.
  - Failing to accurately verify child attendance on voucher payment records/forms within the reporting timeframes.
- 3. This information is being given in connection with federal, state and local public funds and will be used through computer matching programs to confirm the accuracy of my (our) statements and verify my (our) income, resources and need for child care assistance, as warranted.
- 4. Providing the requested information, including the Social Security Numbers of Parent(s)/Applicant(s), is voluntary. Agency staff may use my (our) names and Social Security information with federal and state agencies and other sources deemed necessary for official examination. However, copies of birth certificates, social security and qualified alien resident cards, if applicable, are required for all children for whom subsiday services are being requested.
- 5. Failure to provide or deliberate misrepresentation of required information will result in the denial of my (our) application, termination of child care benefits to the family and referral to federal, state or local agencies for criminal or civil court action, garnishment of wages or tax intercept, as well as private claims collection agencies for claims action involving repayment and recovery of funds.
- 6. Providing false or misleading information in connection with my (our) application for child care financial assistance, and/or failing to report within ten days any change in my (our) family size or family income or any other circumstances that might change my (our) eligibility, such as work/school/training status, may result in the termination of my (our) child care subsidy and make me (us) ineligible to apply for and/or receive subsidized child care for a period of six months for the first violation; for a period of 12 months for a second violation; and permanent disqualification for the third violation.
- 7. If I receive financial assistance as a result of false or misleading information, I (we) may be responsible to repay the costs of child care and may be subject to a civil fine and possible criminal prosecution.
- 8. I (we) understand that in order to verify my (our) income and service need, an agency representative may need to contact my (our) employer(s). I (we) hereby authorize my (our) employer(s) to release information regarding my (our) income, pay scale, hours and schedule of work to the agency to which I am applying.

Parent/Guardian Signature:			
Parent/Guardian Signature:Date:	Parent/Guardian Signature:	Date:	
	Parent/Guardian Signature:	Date:	

Unsigned applications cannot be processed. A copy of this do	ocument will be provided to you for your records.
YFS USE ONLY	
YFS Case Manager Name and Number:lote:	
AR has been completed; voucher payments for DYFS/CPS child care services are a	approved for the period/thru/
YFS Voucher Payment Authorization Signature:	Date:
CR&R or CENTER-BASED CONTRACTED (CBC) PROVIDER USE	ONLY:
heck One:   Initial Application   Re-determination	Certification Date: / /
amily Size: Annual Family Income: \$	
amily's Total Assessed Co-Payment, if applicable (Enter Amt. and Check One): \$	☐ WEEK ☐ MONTH
heck One: DENIED APPROVED PENDING	
taff Member Cartification:	Date:



Print your name\_

### **Burlington Community Action Partnership, Inc.**

718 Route 130 South Burlington, New Jersey 08016 Dr. Ruben Johnson Executive Director

609-386-5800

Child Care Resource & Referral www. bccap.org

## Work First New Jersey/New Jersey Cares for Kids CHILD SUPPORT VERIFICATION

If you DO ha	ave a child support case:
	Please check this box if you have a child support case through the Probation Department/New Jersey Child Support, or out of state agency.
	Please attach payment history screens from: njchildsupport.org or from an out of state agency
	Please check this box if you receive child support through a "mutual agreement" between you and the other parent of your child, and please complete the information below:
	I (applicant/parent), receive \$in child support every
If you DO N	OT have a child support case:
0	Please check this box if you do not have a child support case or "mutual agreement".
information County Cor	rtify that all of the above information is true and correct. I understand that the is being given in connection with federal and state public funds, and the Burlington munity Action Program may verify information. Deliberate misinformation can lenial of a subsidy.
Applicant/F	Parent Signature Date
TT '1 1	



**United Way** of Burlington County

### In order for us to contact you more efficiently:

### Please fill in the following:

### Applicant

Name
Home Phone
Cellular Phone
Work Phone
E-mail
In order for us to contact you more efficiently:  Please fill in the following:  Co- Applicant
Name
Home Phone
Cellular Phone
Work Phone
E-mail

### **Child Verification Form**

Name of Child:	Da	te of Birth:	/	1
Street Address:				
City:	State:	Zip C	code:	
	T TO RELEASE INFORMATION	·		
I authorize the licensed health professional list Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (CCR purposes for the New Jersey Child Care Subsid condition change, I must immediately notify m	R&R). I understand that this form ly Program. I understand that if cir	will only be use	ed for ve	erification
Name of Parent:				
please print				
Parent Signature:		Date:	/	
Licensed Health Professional Title:		please printLicense/Credential No:		
Licensed Health Professional Title:	License/Creden	tial No:		
Street Address:				
City:				
City:Email:				
Email:				
By signing, I certify that the above named child his or her ability to function independently. This or her basic level of functioning in an age-a to the best of my understanding.	Phone:  ICENSED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL I has a documented medical or ph his child requires the personal se	Fax: ysical impairmervices of a care	ent whic taker to	h reduces maintain
By signing, I certify that the above named child his or her ability to function independently. This or her basic level of functioning in an age-a to the best of my understanding.  List Child Disability:	Phone:  ICENSED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL  I has a documented medical or ph his child requires the personal se ppropriate manner. The informat	Fax:ysical impairmervices of a care on provided is	ent whic taker to true and	h reduces maintain I accurate
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By signing, I certify that the above named child his or her ability to function independently. This or her basic level of functioning in an age-a to the best of my understanding.  List Child Disability:  Licensed Health Professional Signature:	Phone:  ICENSED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL  I has a documented medical or ph his child requires the personal se ppropriate manner. The informat	Fax:ysical impairmervices of a care on provided is	ent whic taker to true and	h reduces maintain I accurate
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# Finding Quality Child Care

### Finding a Quality Child Care or Early Learning Program

Research shows that children who are in quality child care and early learning programs when they are young are better prepared for kindergarten with better reading skills, more math skills and larger vocabularies.

Grow NJ Kids, New Jersey's Quality Rating Improvement System, is working to raise the quality of child care and early learning across the state of New Jersey.

For parents, it provides information on selecting a quality provider to help them make the most of their kids' early learning opportunities. For child care and early learning programs, it provides resources that help them raise their quality and continuously improve their program.

There are many types of child care or early learning programs to choose from. Some are in a school, others in a child care center or in someone's home.

### **Home Based Settings:**

### **Family Child Care**

This type of care is provided in someone's home. In New Jersey, a provider can care for no more than five children, plus a maximum of three of their own children. Home providers can choose to be registered, which means they meet the basic safety and programs requirements established by state law. This registration also allows these in-home providers to accept payments from families participating in government-subsidized child care assistance programs.

#### **In-Home Care**

hearing impairments.

In this type of care, a person comes to your home to care for your child. This provider might offer other services such as light housekeeping, starting or making dinner or driving your child to lessons or play dates. Although you may use an agency to find such a provider, they are neither regulated nor licensed by the state and cannot participate in Grow NJ Kids.

### **Center- and School-Based Settings:**

#### **Child Care Centers**

Licensed by the state of New Jersey, these facilities are inspected every two years and must meet basic health, safety, program and staffing requirements. They can care for six or more children from the age of 6 weeks to 13 years. There are many types of licensed child care centers, including but not limited to infant/toddler programs, early care and education programs and school-age programs. Licensed centers also may choose to meet more rigorous, research-based or accreditation standards. (There also are license-exempt centers, such as programs that are part of a public school district or private school.)

### **Head Start & Early Head Start**

Head Start and Early Head Start programs support the mental, social and emotional development of children from birth to age 5. In addition to education services, programs provide children and their families with health, nutrition, social and other services.

### **School District Preschool Programs**

School districts provide research-based preschool programs for 3- and 4-year-olds, that may be located within a school district site, a private provider or a local Head Startagency.

### **Special Services School Districts**

These districts provide options for preschool students with special needs and were developed to address the educational and developmental needs of children ages 3-5. Typically, these districts are comprised of three types of classes: classes that educate 4-year-old students who have special needs in the same classroom as those students who do not have special needs; preschool classes for students with Individualized Educational Programs and the need for smaller groups sizes and more individualized programming; and classes with highly specialized instruction for students with autism and students with

When visiting a child care or early learning program, there are questions you can ask to help you determine which program is best for your child and family. These questions are based on indicators of quality that are embedded in the Grow NJ Kids standards.

### Safe, Healthy Learning Environment

- ☐ Is there regular communication between program staff/teachers and parents? How is the information communicated (email, phone calls, letters sent home with child)?
- ☐ Is the space clean?
- □ Do you see staff and children washing their hands before and after meals and diapering? Is the facility safe and secure?
- ☐ Is the outdoor play space safe, clean, free of litter and broken glass?
- What meals are provided by the program? Are children allowed to bring their own food for religious or dietary reasons?
- Does the program have an oral health or a tooth brushing policy?
- Does the program check the children's eyes, hearing, teeth, and growth by providing screenings?
- □ Does the program support breastfeeding (breast milk storage/ place to breastfeed)?
- Are children of different ages cared for together or are they grouped by age?
- ☐ How are children supervised during different situations (sleep or outside play)?



### **Curriculum and Learning Environment**

- □ How many children will be in your child's class/group? What are the ages of the children in the classroom/ home?
- Is there a daily schedule?
- Does the daily schedule incorporate both indoor and outdoor play opportunities?
- Do you observe positive, warm and nurturing teacher-child interactions and conversations while in the classroom/home?
- □ Do you see children interacting with each other?
- ☐ Do the children have access to books and other materials?
- ☐ Are the children read to each day?
- □ Does the program use a researchbased curriculum (age appropriate for infants and young children)?
- Are children given "free play" time (For example, are children allowed to choose the book they'd like to read or what activity they'd like to do)?

### Family and Community Engagement

- Does the program have an open door policy? Are parents allowed to visit at any time?
- Does the program make community resources (events, information regarding services) available to families?
- Does the program embrace your child's home language in the classroom/home and/or in the materials being used?
- Does the program share information about activities/lessons being worked on so parents can reinforce at home? For infants, is there a daily log?



- Does the program have opportunities for parents to volunteer in the classroom/home?
- Does the program offer parent workshops?
- □ Does the program have a parent council or parent group?

### Workforce/Professional Development

- What is the education level of the staff?
- ☐ How long have the staff been employed with the program?
- ☐ What types of trainings do staff attend each year?
- ☐ How many staffhave received Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid training?
- ☐ If the program uses a research-based curriculum, have the staff had formal curriculum training?

### Administration and Management

- □ Does the program have a current child care license or family child care registration? (If applicable, as some school district programs are not required to have a child care license.)
- ☐ What is the tuition/cost? Other fees?
- □ Does the program have a parent handbook that outlines policies and procedures including child illness/ sickness, emergencies, discipline?
- ☐ Is the program director on site during operating hours?
- What is the daily child check-in and check-outpolicy when dropping off and picking up your child?
- ☐ Is the program enrolled in Grow NJ Kids?

For parenting resources, visit GrowNJKids.com Child Care Helpline 1-800-332-9227