

ACCREDITATION

An accredited program means your child will be safe, healthy, and learning each day. Programs that meet these higher standards provide a safe and healthy environment for children, have teachers who are well-trained, have access to excellent teaching materials, and work with curriculum that is appropriately challenging and developmentally sound.

CHILD CARE CENTERS

NAEYC - National Association for the Education of Young Children Accreditation

NECPA - National Early Childhood Program Accreditation

FAMILY AND GROUP CHILD CARE HOMES

NAFCC - National Association of Family Child Care



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Georgia's Source for Finding Quality Child Care

www.ALLGAKIDS.org

www.qualitycareforchildren.org

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PROVIDER/TEACHER

- Provider talks to children at eye-level.
- Provider responds to a hurt or unhappy child.
- Provider has received at least a minimum of 10 hours of training annually (suggested minimum: 20 hours).
- Provider has a high school diploma or CDA (Child Development Associate) or higher degree.
- Provider has relevant early childhood experience.
- Staff turnover is low. The same provider remains with the child for most of the year.

FIELD TRIPS AND TRANSPORTATION

- Field trips are part of the program.
- Transportation is safe.
- Every vehicle has a first aid kit, fire extinguisher and emergency contact information.

YOUR INVOLVEMENT

- There are opportunities for you to be involved in activities.
- Regular parent meetings are offered.
- You are given a copy of the program's policies.
- You are welcome any time a child is in care.

YOUR FEELINGS

- Children appear to be enjoying themselves.
- The provider is sensitive to yours and others' cultural beliefs.
- The environment exposes children to diversity.

INSIDE ENVIRONMENT

- You feel comfortable with the cleanliness of the center or home.
- The indoor play area is free of hazards (uncovered outlets, chipping paint, hazardous chemicals and cleaners, dangling cords, etc).
- The setting is sanitary, attractive and well-lit.
- Sufficient safety measures are taken in the center or the home, such as vents and fireplaces being screened.
- There is a fire extinguisher, smoke detector and a fire evacuation plan.



OUTSIDE ENVIRONMENT

- The outdoor play area is free of hazards such as glass, poison ivy, etc.
- The ground is covered sufficiently with enough surfacing to decrease serious injuries.
- Children are dressed appropriately for cold and warm weather.
- All playground equipment is in good condition.
- The family child care provider has a safe outside area nearby to take the children to play if he or she does not have a yard.

Child Care Checklist

Infants, Toddlers & Preschoolers



Learning when it matters most

Choosing child care for your child is one of the most important choices you will ever have to make as a parent or guardian. Visit the child care setting you are considering for your child. As you observe, consider the following:

HANDWASHING & DIAPERING

- Providers wash their hands after diapering, as well as wash the children's hands.



- Children are instructed to wash their hands before meals and after toileting, sneezing and coughing.
- The diaper-changing area is near running water and away from the food storage or preparation area.
- A procedure is in place to disinfect toys and equipment, including toilets and potty chairs.

ILLNESSES

- The program has a policy on the exclusion of sick children.
- You are notified about outbreaks of communicable diseases.

TOYS

- Toys are in good condition and washed frequently.
- Toys are appropriate for the age and developmental level of the child.
- There are enough toys and supplies for children to use.
- There are enough appropriate toys, both large and small, and equipment for a variety of play experiences, including toys for pretend and group play.



ACTIVITIES

- The level of activity is suitable for your child.
- Providers should have some time to give individual attention to each child.
- Infants are engaged in activities and receive appropriate interactions with their caregivers. They do not lay in their cribs too long.
- Infants are out of cribs when they are not sleeping.
- Children are allowed the time and space for individual play.
- Children are given additional time to finish their project.
- Daily schedules include active and quiet play, rest time and outdoor play.
- Children have opportunities to listen to music, draw, paint and tell stories.
- If TV is used, it is used for learning and kept to a minimum.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS & INCLUSION

- A child with disabilities is included in all activities and field trips.
- Reasonable accommodations are made to assist children with access to all areas of the program.
- The program adapts equipment, toys and activities to the developmental level of a child.
- The provider has some experience with children with disabilities.

MEALS

- Meal menus are posted in order for parents to know what meals are to be served.
- Children have the opportunity to request seconds.
- Meal times are pleasant with interaction among the children and caregiver.
- Children have the option of whether or not to eat everything on his or her plate.
- Food is not held out as a reward or punishment.
- The kitchen is kept clean. Food handling procedures are done in a way that will make you feel comfortable. The children have proper supervision while meals are being prepared.



GROUP SIZE AND RATIOS

Parents should be aware of the number of children in each classroom. The state has set standards to ensure that teachers do not have more children than they can safely and effectively care for at one time. Group sizes vary by the type of program and the ages of the children. There are preferred national standards that are proven to be better for the health and safety of children.

CHILD CARE CENTERS

Age	GA licensing maximum # of children per teacher	GA licensing maximum group size per room	Preferred maximum # of children per teacher*
Infants	6	12	3-4
1-year-olds	8	16	3-4
2-year-olds	10	20	4-6
3-year-olds	15	30	6-9
4-year-olds	18	36	8-10
5-year-olds	20	40	8-10

*According to the National Association for the Education of Young Children

FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES

Providers may care for 6 children for whom they receive payment or compensation. A provider may care for 2 additional children that are 3-years-old or older for two designated hours, plus their own children. This total may never exceed 12.

One assistant (16-years-old or older) is required:

- when more than three children under the age of 12 months are present OR
- when more than eight children under the age of 5 years are present

Search for child care and find more resources at www.ALLGAKIDS.org

You can check the background of any program or provider at www.decal.ga.gov