What Type of Child Care is Right for Your Family?

START HERE

Do you prefer a facility that is more structured or more relaxed?

RELAXED

STRUCTURED

Do you have a set schedule or do you require more flexibility?

MORE FLEXIBILITY

SET SCHEDULE

Is it important to be able to call and text to get updates during the day?

NO

YES

Teachers in child care centers and preschools are often not allowed to have mobile phones at work. If updates are important to you, make sure to ask about their mobile phone policies.

Do you prefer a more structured drop off and pick up process?

NO

YES

Family and group child care homes often have less structured drop off and pick up practices, due to the smaller number of children.

Do you want the program to teach from a set curriculum?

YES

NO

Family and group child care homes usually do not have a curriculum, though some do. Often, preschools have a more structured curriculum than child care centers.

Do you prefer all children to be of similar age or various ages?

SIMILAR AGE

VARIOUS AGES

Are you okay with your child being transported?

NO

Many family and group child care homes transport children to and from school and other activities. Make sure to ask potential child care providers if they transport.

YES

Is it important for there to be more than one adult present?

YES

NO

CHILD CARE CENTER

Based on your responses, you would most likely prefer a child care center setting for your child.

Most child care centers separate the children into classrooms by age group. Depending on the number of adults in each classroom, there can be as many as 32 children in a single classroom.

Child care centers typically have set hours of operation and are less flexible with scheduling. Drop off and pick up times are often more structured, due to the large number of children in the facility. It is not uncommon for parents to drop their children off with one teacher and pick them up from another.

GROUP CHILD CARE HOME

Based on your responses, you would most likely prefer a group child care home setting for your child.

Most group child care homes have two adults who care for as many as twelve children at one time, depending on the ages of the children, which can vary from infant to school age.

It is less common for child care homes to transport, since there is more than one adult. These facilities are often less structured during drop off and pick up times, but allow for more flexibility in days and times care is available.

FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME

Based on your responses, you would most likely prefer a family child care home setting for your child.

Most family child care homes have only one adult who cares for as many as ten children at one time, depending on the ages of the children, which can vary from infant to school age.

It is not uncommon for family child care homes to transport in order to drop off or pick up school age children. These facilities are often less structured during drop off and pick up times, but allow for more flexibility in days and times care is available.