Becoming a Child Care Provider

It's as Easy as 1-2-3

You have a lot to offer kids and families. You bring unique experiences and skills that can prepare kids to engage in the world, while also running a business that supports your community and your family. We can help you get set up!

Contact our knowledgeable consultants or visit our website for new provider support!

855-750-3343

ks.childcareaware.org/new-providers

STEP 1

Explore the Possibilities

Learn more about family child care and decide if a career in early care is a good fit for you.

STEP 2

Learn About Licensing

Explore licensing requirements from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

STEP 3

Find Support

Contact your local CCR&R for help establishing and maintaining your child care business.



Child Care Aware® of Kansas

Kansas Department for Children and Families

CHILD CARE in KANSAS

Program Funding Partner

MAKING A DECISION

A career in early childhood education can be extremely rewarding. If you're thinking about starting a child care business or earning your required credentials, we can help you decide whether it's the field for you.

Important Things to Consider

Starting a family child care business is demanding and requires dedication. To determine if it's right for you, try the Family Child Care Self-Assessment. This will help you identify your strengths, interests, and potential challenges.

There are costs associated with starting and maintaining a business. Starting a family child care business has costs, though generally lower than other businesses. Initial expenses will vary based on what you already have and what you need to buy. Be prepared for irregular income, especially in the first year.

Consider the **family child care basic necessities checklist**, remembering that some things are required to begin your business and some can be added later.

Protect yourself and reduce the risks of doing business. Ensure you follow licensing regulations and supervise children at all times. Review house rules and safety procedures with the children to prevent accidents.

Check your insurance policies to ensure proper coverage for your business, as homeowner's and auto insurance may not apply. Screen and supervise any helpers. Report any suspected child abuse or neglect to DCF at 1-800-922-5330.

Knowledge of Basic Child Development is Key
A solid understanding of child development is crucial for meeting each child's needs. Staying calm under stress and being organized are also essential qualities.

More detailed information and partner resources are easily accessible on our multilingual website! **ks.childcareaware.org/career-family-child-care**

CHECK THIS OUT

If you're thinking about starting a child care business or earning your required credentials, check out this blog for Reasons to Become an Early Childhood Professional! ks.childcareaware.org/10-reasons/

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP

Having the Support of Your Family Matters
How your family feels about your child care business affects your success and well-being. Customize your business to fit your family's needs and find a balance between your family and the families you serve.

Consider how your home space will be used and discuss with your family how the business will impact household operations, including both positives and challenges. Communicate the value of your work to help them understand your important role.

Tips for a Successful Partnership with Your Families

Be flexible. Life happens and sometimes parents may run late. Try to be understanding while setting boundaries.

Follow the agreed upon contract and policies. Keep a copy for your records. If you feel that the family is not adhering to your policies, mention it. Small issues can quickly become big issues.

Communicate openly with your families about children and their progress, as well as any concerns you may have.



TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Build strong partnerships with parents using various communication tools like notes, calls, texts, and emails. Encourage their participation, as happy parents are your best marketing tool.



LEARNING ABOUT LICENSED CHILD CARE IN KANSAS

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) administers the child care licensing laws and issues licenses for child care facilities. The main purpose of child care regulation is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of children receiving care away from their home.

Visit the KDHE website to learn about ratios, licensing requirements, and how to contact your licensing specialist.

kdhe.ks.gov/280/Child-Care-Licensing

Licensing Basics

A few licensing basics to keep in mind: Child care providers in Kansas must be 18 years old, have a high school diploma, complete a physical and tuberculosis test, pass a background check, and submit fingerprints. Anyone living in the residence who is 16 or older must also complete some of these requirements. Visit KDHE's website above for full licensing details.

Types of Child Care in Kansas

Center-Based

Child care centers often offer more options than in-home providers, with structured environments, age-specific activities, and set hours. They include Headstart programs and preschools.

Home-Based

Home-based child care is typically offered in the provider's home, with flexible scheduling and age ranges. Providers must follow state and federal guidelines and offer daily activities.

School-Age

School-age programs serve k-6 graders, typically before/after school and during summer break. Often run by schools or community partners to provide care outside the traditional school year.

CHILD CARE in KANSAS

childcareinkansas.com is a great website for more detailed information on the different program types.

DID YOU KNOW

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federal program that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children and adults who are enrolled for care at participating child care centers, day care homes, and adult day care centers.

FINDING SUPPORT

Get information directly from the source. Keep this list of key Kansas child care contacts for easy reference.

Child Care Providers Coalition of Kansas (CCPC) is the state association in Kansas that publishes a newsletter and sponsors an annual conference
ccpcofks.com

Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children (KAEYC) is a statewide organization with local chapters in some counties. KAEYC also sponsors an annual conference.
kaeyc.net

Kansas State Department of Education Child Nutrition & Wellness provides leadership, information, training, technical assistance, and monitoring for local agencies operating child nutrition and wellness programs including the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).
cnw.ksde.org

Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) administers the child care licensing laws and issues licenses for child care facilities
kdhe.ks.gov

Kansas Department for Children and Families (KDCF) offers a variety of assistance programs including food, cash, and child care assistance. You can also report all suspected incidents of child abuse or neglect to KDCF.
dcf.ks.gov

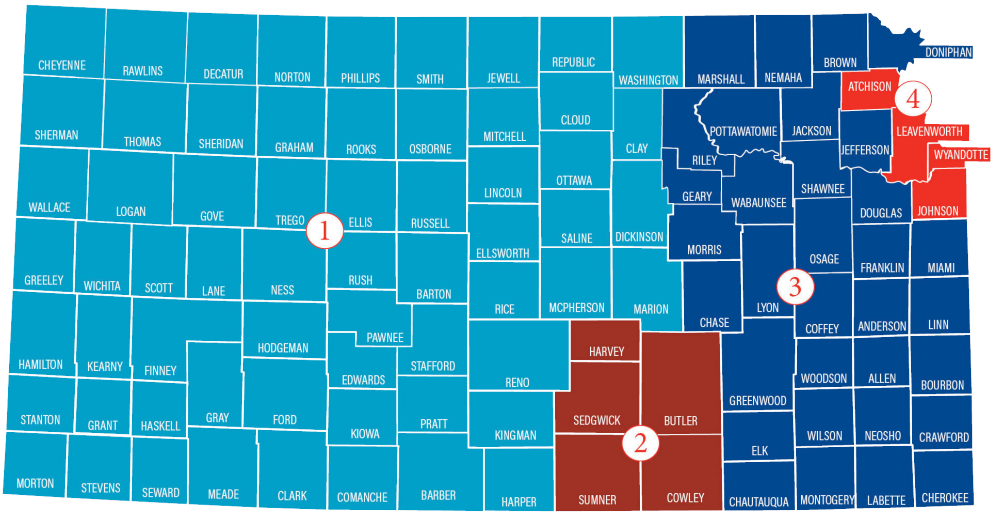
Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities, Inc. (KCCTO) is a state-wide training office dedicated to providing quality, accessible, professional development opportunities to family child care providers, child care center staff, and other early education professionals throughout Kansas.
kccto.org

CHILD CARE in KANSAS

childcareinkansas.com is a great website for more detailed information for child care providers, families, and communities.

CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCIES

Child Care Aware of Kansas offers a variety of services to help you as you establish your business. We contract with Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&Rs) across the state.



How Our Consultants Can Help

CCR&R professionals are available by phone, email, or for a consultation at your home.

They can provide information about topics, such as:

- establishing health and safety practices
- designing a contract and provider policies
- knowing how much to charge
- developing a business plan
- creating a professional development plan
- organizing the child care space in your home

Find all of this information, easily, online!
ks.childcareaware.org/provider-support-center

1 ChildCare Aware® OF KANSAS

ks.childcareaware.org
855-750-3343
Salina

2 CHILD START

childstart.org
800-684-3962
Wichita

3 ChildCare Aware® OF EASTERN KANSAS

east.ks.childcareaware.org
877-678-2548
Topeka

4 the family conservancy

thefamilyconservancy.org
800-755-0838
Kansas City

DID YOU KNOW

The Child Care Referral Center Service is free advertising for your child care business. We respond to thousands of requests each year from parents searching for child care.

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