

Welcome to Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)

FOR PARENTS/FAMILIES

Parents Choose Wisely: The CCR&R Advantage

It's a wise idea to visit and compare at least three child care settings. Make appointments with prospective caregivers and, if possible, take your child with you to the interview. Plan to spend at least 30-60 minutes visiting at each site. If possible, drop by for a second visit on another day. Contact Child Care Resource & Referral at (305) 373-3521 for a Quality Checklist for some ideas on what to look for during your visit. Depending on your particular needs, you will probably want to add some questions of your own.

Make an educated decision: Parents first concerns are for the safety, health, and well being of their children. Every facility will have different features, but you must decide which things are most important to you and your child. Before making a final decision, check the state's child care licensing website www.myflorida.com/childcare for inspection information about any licensed program you are considering.

Use Resource and Referral Services

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) is a service provided by the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe. CCR&R is devoted to helping families find answers to their concerns regarding how to identify quality early education programs and how to locate a provider that meets each family's needs. We suggest that you contact CCR&R office at (305) 373-3521. Trained staff can provide you with referrals to programs that are customized to meet your family's needs, as well as referrals to other services in your community.

CCR&R services are free to anyone residing or seeking child care and early education services in Florida. When your child is in a safe, caring and quality child care setting, you will feel more at ease while you are away from your child.

Child Care Resource & Referral Network (CCR&R)

The Agency for Workforce Innovation-Office of Early Learning Child Care Resource and Referral Network is dedicated to helping families find answers to their questions regarding how to identify quality child care and early education programs and how to locate a provider that meets the needs of each family.

The Child Care Resource & Referral Network is committed to providing on-going assistance to local Early Learning Coalitions and your local Child Care Resource and Referral service providers to improve the quality of their services to families in the State of Florida.

To learn more about the Child Care Resource & Referral Network, please call 1-866-357-3239 toll-free or 850-921-3180.

**State Adult to
Child Ratios**

Birth-12 months (1:4)

12-24 months (1:6)

2-year-olds (1:11)

3-year-olds (1:15)

4/5-year-olds (1:20)

4-year-olds in Voluntary

Pre-K programs (1:10)

School-age children (1:25)

VPK High Points

High quality educational program with an early literacy focus
FREE for all children 4-years old by September 1 of each school year, who live in Florida

VPK Program Options

School Year Program – 540 instructional hours beginning each school year
Summer Program – 300 instructional hours beginning each summer

Get a VPK Certificate at the following locations:

West Dade Office- Kendall
11025 SW 84th Street/Bldg.11

Cutler Ridge
10710 SW 211 Street - Suite #201
Miami, Florida 33189

Culmer/Overtown Center
1600 NW 3rd Ave.
Miami, Florida 33136

Joseph Caleb Center
5400 NW 22nd Avenue, Suite 306
Miami, Florida 33142

Miami Lakes Office
15910 NW 57th Avenue
Miami, FL 33014

Providers

All VPK providers must meet high standards required by Florida law;
Parents have the option of choosing the provider that meets their own family's needs.
Options for parents include:

- ✓ public schools
- ✓ private child
- ✓ care centers and licensed
- ✓ family child care homes

Instructors

All VPK instructors must have a minimum of a CDA for the school year program or a Bachelor's degree for the summer program

Ratios are 1 instructor to 10 children and class size will not exceed 18 children

Curriculum

Must be developmentally appropriate and focus on early literacy skills

Must prepare the child to be ready for kindergarten based on standards adopted by the State Board of Education

Transportation

Parents are responsible for their child's transportation

For additional information or questions, call CCR&R at (305) 373-3521

www.vpkflorida.org or call toll free

1-866-357-3239 (TTY: 711)

Dependent Care Tax Credit

This credit enables parents to deduct eligible child care expenses from their annual income tax return. The amount of the credit is deducted from the family's total tax liability and can represent a substantial savings for families. For additional information, request Publication from the Internal Revenue Service.

800-TAX-1040

www.irs.gov

Earned Income Credit (EIC)/

Advanced Earned Income Credit

The EIC is a special tax benefit for working people who earn low or moderate incomes. The advanced EIC allows workers who qualify to receive a portion of their income tax refund in advance in each paycheck throughout the year.

800-TAX-1040

www.irs.gov

Child Care/Financial Assistance

Parents earning low or moderate incomes may qualify for financial assistance to help pay a portion of the costs for a child care or school readiness program. To find out if you qualify or to learn about other scholarships and other financial assistance options, contact Child Care Resource & Referral at (305) 373- 3521 or visit one of the following offices nearest you:

West Dade Office- Kendall
11025 SW 84th Street/Bldg.11

Cutler Ridge
10710 SW 211 Street - Suite #201
Miami, Florida 33189

Culmer/Overtown Center
1600 NW 3rd Ave.
Miami, Florida 33136

Joseph Caleb Center
5400 NW 22nd Avenue, Suite 306
Miami, Florida 33142

Miami Lakes Office
15910 NW 57th Avenue
Miami, FL 33014

Head Start

This comprehensive program provides preschool, health, nutrition and family support services for eligible 3- and 4-yearolds prior to kindergarten. It is funded by the federal government; there are no costs to families who meet the eligibility criteria. Contact Child Care Resource & Referral at (305) 373-3521.

Americans with Disabilities Act

For general ADA information, answers to specific technical questions, free ADA materials, or information about filing a complaint, call:

800-514-0301 (voice)

800-514-0383 (TTY)

www.ada.gov

Child Care Aware

Child Care Aware is a non-profit initiative committed to helping parents find the best information on locating quality child care and child care resources in their local community; maintain links to resource and referral agencies in every state of the U.S. 800-424-2246 www.childcareaware.org.

ChildHelp

National Child Abuse Hotline

The Childhelp USA® National Child Abuse Hotline is dedicated to the prevention of child abuse. Serving the United States, Canada, U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam, the hotline is staffed 24 hours daily with professional crisis counselors who utilize a database of thousands of resources.

800-4-A-Child

www.childhelpusa.org

Department of Children & Families

(DCF) Licensing Website

The Department of Children and Families is statutorily responsible for the administration of child care licensing and training throughout Florida. This program regulates licensed child care facilities, licensed family child care homes, and licensed mildly ill facilities in 60 of the 67 counties in Florida.

850-921-4713 www.myflorida.com/childcare.

Florida Abuse Hotline

Provides a full range of services, from parenting classes and respite care to transportation and child care; the goal of the department is to keep children safe in their own families when possible.

800-96-ABUSE 800-96-2283

www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse

Family Resources

Florida's Central Directory of Early Childhood Services

The Central Directory provides information and referral on disabilities and special health care needs for families, service coordinators and other professionals that work with children with special needs. The Central Directory can also refer you to the local Early Steps or FDLRS Child Find

At (305) 271-9797 if you suspect your child may have a disability.

800-654-4440 www.centraldirectory.org.

Florida Child Support Enforcement

Child support services that include locating missing parents, establishing legal paternity, and establishing, enforcing, and modifying support orders.

800-622-KIDS or 800-622-5437 www.myflorida.com/dor/childsupport/

Florida KidCare

Florida KidCare is the children's health insurance program for uninsured children younger than age 19. It is made up of four parts: MediKids, Healthy Kids, Children's Medical Services (CMS) Network for children with special health care needs and Medicaid for children. The Florida KidCare program assesses eligibility based on age and family income.

888-540-5437

www.floridakidcare.com

MyFlorida.com

Florida's government website -
www.myflorida.com

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

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is dedicated to improving the well-being of all young children, with particular focus on the quality of educational and developmental services for all children from birth through age 8. 800-424-2460
www.naeyc.org.

Parent Anonymous Hotline

A community of parents, organizations and volunteers committed to: Strengthening Families to Build Strong Communities.
909-621-6184

Parents Without Partners

Provides help to single parents by way of discussions, professional speakers, study groups, publications and social activities for families and adults.
561-391-8833
www.parentswithoutpartners.org

The Children's Forum

The Children's Forum promotes quality child care and early learning, engages parents, conducts research, and supports excellence in teaching and care giving through training and technical assistance services. The Forum's goal is to ensure that children develop the strong foundations they need beginning at birth and arrive at school ready to succeed. The Forum coordinates services with community-based early learning coalitions, child care resource and referral agencies and other organizations statewide.
888-352-4453
www.thechildrensforum.com

The Childrens' Trust
Summer/After-School Programs
Call "211"
www.childrenstrust.org

FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

VPK Standards Training

- ✓ **These sessions are for VPK teachers and directors only.** Please do not register if you are an assistant or infant/ toddler teacher. You need to register by calling (305) 646-7220 ext. 273. Space is limited and walk-ins are not allowed.

- ✓ Department of Children & Families Child Care Training Information Center: 1-888 -352-2842; www.myflorida.com/childcare/training

Children with Special Needs

Florida Statute 402.3018 mandates the provision of a toll-free number to provide assistance and consultation specifically to child care personnel regarding the inclusion of children with disabilities and special health care needs. This number is known as the Warm Line. The toll-free local Warm Line is available to any early care and education provider requesting information relating to the disability and special health care needs issues of children.

Each early learning coalition provides Warm Line services for child care providers on topics including:

- **Curriculum**
- **Strategies**
- **Child development**
- **Health**
- **Environmental adaptations**
- **Laws and regulations (i.e. The Americans with Disabilities Act)**

For the Early Learning Coalition Warm Line contact in Miami-Dade County:(305) 373-3521.

For additional information on Inclusion/Warm-Line services, please contact Amanda Moore at 1-866-357-3239 or send an email to Amanda.Moore2@awi.state.fl.us

NEW FLORIDA CHILD CARE INFORMATION

New Immunization Requirement for Child Care

Effective January 1, 2008, pneumonia vaccine is required for children age 2 to 24 months. Give the 680 form to parents of children age 2 to 24 months, for updating by the healthcare provider. Be sure parents return the updated form before January 2008.

These are the required vaccines for childcare facilities and family daycare homes:
Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccine
Polio vaccine Measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine Varicella vaccine (chickenpox)
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine Visit www.ImmunizeFlorida.org for more information.

30 Hour Introductory Training is Now Available Online!

How can I access the online training courses?

Go to www.myflorida.com/childcare

Select "Training Requirements"

Select "Click here to Register for Courses"

Select "Online Courses" and select a course

FLORIDA DIRECTOR CREDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

Effective April 2007

The Director Credential terminology and requirements have been redefined in an effort to consolidate and streamline the program. Changes include revised program titles ("Level I", "Level II" and "Advanced") and consolidation of programmatic requirements.

Director Credential certificates stating "Foundational", "Temporary" and "Permanent" are still valid for licensing purposes. The new terminology will be reflected on the DCF training transcript. Upon renewal, the new terminology will be reflected on the certificate.

Now Available!

Florida Director Credential Renewal Application

Form CF-FSP 5306

The Director Credential is a renewable certificate that must remain active to be recognized for licensing requirements. To maintain an active Director Credential, you **MUST** renew your director credential by meeting all renewal requirements outlined on the application prior to the inactive date.

Renewal applications will be accepted up to one year before the inactive date listed on the certificate and child care training transcript. To determine when to renew, please refer to the inactive date printed on the certificate, or review your training transcript on-line.

Child Care Training Information Center toll-free at **1-888-352-2842**

Review your Training Transcript and Download the Director Credential Renewal Application (CF-FSP 5306) at

www.myflorida.com/childcare/training

DCF CHILD CARE LICENSING

DCF Child Care Licensing

Chapter 65C-22 and 65C-20 Florida Administrative Code Revisions

Staff Credentials

Individuals within the child care industry have many options when selecting a continuing education program to meet both personal goals as well as credentialing and licensing standards. To assist the child care industry, the Department of Children & Families Child Care Program Office (DCF) made extensive revisions to the Florida Administrative Code in an effort to streamline the credentialing process and to enhance the programs by raising and changing requirements to model national standards.

These changes affect programmatic requirements and the names of the continuing education programs that are accepted as meeting the Department's Staff Credential requirements. For a complete copy of these changes, please visit the Child Care Program Office website at www.myflorida.com/childcare.

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate

Visit the VPK readiness website at VPK.fldoe.org/ to access the following information:

- Customized views of [VPK Provider Readiness Rates](#) for the 2005-06 School-Year and Summer Programs
- VPK Provider Kindergarten [Readiness Rate Dispute Process](#) page
- List of [Low Performing Providers](#)
- [Improvement Process](#) for Low Performing Providers

Low Performing Providers must submit a VPK Provider Improvement Plan no later than August 9, 2007.

The State Board of Education set the minimum readiness rate at 201 at their June 19, 2007 meeting.

Miami-Dade County Provider Business Meetings Calendar

The meetings for this year are held from September 2007 thru June 2008

Dates	Location	Time
September 25, 2007	South Dade Govt. Center 10710 SW 211 th Street, Room 203 305-232-3831/234-1457	10:00 -12:00 (English) 2:00 -4:00 (Spanish)
September 26, 2007	MLK Building – 2 nd Floor 2525 NW 62 nd Street 305-514-6000/908-7300	10:00 – 12:00 (English)
	Miami Lakes Building 15910 NW 57 th Avenue Training Room 305-908-7300	2:00 – 4:00 (Spanish)
November 27, 2007	South Dade Govt. Center 10710 SW 211 th Street, Room 203 305-232-3831/234-1457	10:00 -12:00 (English) 2:00 -4:00 (Spanish)
November 28, 2007	MLK Building – 2 nd Floor 2525 NW 62 nd Street 305-514-6000/908-7300	10:00 – 12:00 (English)
	Miami Lakes Building 15910 NW 57 th Avenue Training Room 305-908-7300	2:00 – 4:00 (Spanish)

Provider Business Meetings (cont'd.)

January 29, 2008	South Dade Govt. Center 10710 SW 211 th Street, Room 203 305-232-3831/234-1457	10:00 -12:00 (English) 2:00 -4:00 (Spanish)
January 30, 2008	MLK Building – 2 nd Floor 2525 NW 62 nd Street 305-514-6000/908-7300	10:00 – 12:00 (English)
	Miami Lakes Building 15910 NW 57 th Avenue Training Room 305-908-7300	2:00 – 4:00 (Spanish)
March 25, 2008	South Dade Govt. Center 10710 SW 211 th Street, Room 203 305-232-3831/234-1457	10:00 -12:00 (English) 2:00 -4:00 (Spanish)
March 26, 2008	MLK Building – 2 nd Floor 2525 NW 62 nd Street 305-514-6000/908-7300	10:00 – 12:00 (English)
	Miami Lakes Building 15910 NW 57 th Avenue Training Room 305-908-7300	2:00 – 4:00 (Spanish)
June 25, 2008	Combined Meeting MLK Building 2 nd Floor 2525 NW 62 nd Street 305-514-6000/908-7300	10:00 – 12:00 (English) 2:00 – 4:00 (Spanish)



Emergency Preparedness Update

Don't forget...after an emergency please remember to call the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe's emergency phone number at 305-646-7220 to inform about of your Center's status. Please leave a message with the following information: Center's name and address, Director's contact information, report of any injuries to staff and/or damage