

Child Care Resource and Referral Services Fact Sheet for Families

Why is early child care important?

The first years of your child's life are when the brain makes connections that help your child think, learn and behave. Child care is an important part of helping parents manage their responsibilities. If you are a parent with questions about child care services available to your child in Florida, the statewide Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) network can help. The services are free for any family living in or moving to Florida.

In Florida, the Office of Early Learning partners with 30 regional early learning coalitions to help families connect with resources. Each coalition has a local CCR&R team that provides services to families, child care providers, and their communities.

What does the local CCR&R program do for families?

- ✓ Shares detailed information about valuable community and state resources.
- ✓ Keeps a database of all legally operating child care providers to help families select an early learning program that best meets their needs.
- ✓ Talks with families about a child's basic needs, financial assistance, community resources and other agencies that support families' well-being.
- ✓ Connects families to specialists and resources for supporting children with special needs.
- ✓ Helps families with the School Readiness or Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) application process.
- ✓ Shares resources that support the needs of military families.
- ✓ Offers assistance to foster families and homeless families.



How do I receive CCR&R assistance?

To find out more, contact your local early learning coalition. Visit the [Office of Early Learning](#) for a map of the 30 coalitions. You may also call the CCR&R State Network office on their toll-free family line at 866-357-3239.

In the 2019-2020 school year,
CCR&R served 194,611 families.



How does the local CCR&R program help childcare providers?

- Connects families to child care providers that meet their individual needs.
- Offers new child care providers free start-up information and technical assistance.
- Provides access to resources that promote quality early childhood education.
- Offers free professional development and technical assistance opportunities for child care providers and their staff.
- Distributes information about best practices in operating a child care program, engaging families, child development, consumer information, local and statewide initiatives and resources for teachers, children and families.

What services does the state CCR&R State Network Office provide?

- Provides oversight, guidance, training and technical assistance to coalitions and their CCR&R staff.
- Operates a toll-free call center for families and providers. Maintains information and access to all early learning programs in Florida.
- Develops educational materials and other resources for coalitions, families and child care providers.
- Collaborates with different agencies, community partners and national experts to improve the state's child care services as well as access to child care.
- Provides objective information for planning and policy development to the public and private sectors.
- Works with federal, state and local entities to provide emergency services during and after natural disasters.

CCR&R Staff can help provide financial assistance strategies and opportunities for eligible families.



Every family in Florida has access to CCR&R Services.

