

My Plan for Finding Child Care

- Plan ahead and contact thread** for child care referrals and early learning resources.
- Review the referrals and quality guide** I received for information about:
 - Average cost of care
 - Different child care settings
 - Group sizes and ratios in care
 - Program accreditation
 - Family involvement policies
 - Caregiver education and turnover rates
 - Health and safety indicators
- Investigate community resources** such as public child care subsidies and financial assistance programs.
- Check each program's compliance history.**
 - Municipality of Anchorage: <http://hhs2.muni.org/cac/> or 907-343-4758
 - State of Alaska Child Care Licensing:
 - Northern Alaska: 907-451-3198
 - Southeast Alaska: 907-465-4756
 - Southcentral Alaska: 907-269-4500
 - Statewide: 1-888-268-4632
- Pick the top three programs** that best match my needs.
- Call each provider** and schedule a time to visit the program.
- Visit the program** using the quality indicators as a guide.
- Take my child with me to the programs** I have prioritized: watch how they respond to the provider and the environment.
- Choose a program** by thinking about what I learned during my visits and throughout my search process. Pick the program that best fits my family.
- Get my child started** in care by using the tips on page 14 of the Quality Guide.
- Stay involved** by visiting my child in the program from time to time and asking about their experiences.