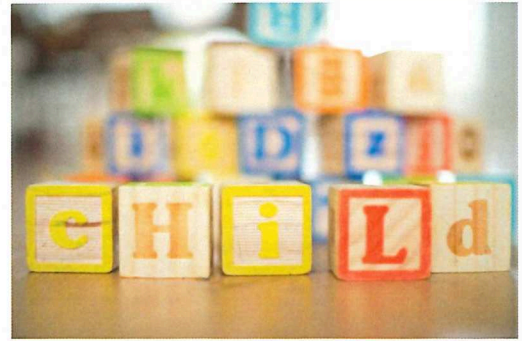


More and more, research tells us that our children's healthy development depends on safe and positive experiences during the first few years of life. If you are a parent who works or attends school or training during these early years, choosing quality child care is one of the most important decisions you will ever make for your child.



Four Steps to Choosing Quality Child Care

1. **Start Early and Make the Call**– Start looking as far in advance as you can. Begin your search by calling your local experts– your Child Care Resource and Referral agency. To find your local child care referral agency, call 1-877-678-2548 or visit www.ks.childcareaware.org.
2. **Visit and Ask Questions**– Visit the child care program you are considering. Before you visit, create a list of questions that you plan to ask.
3. **Make an Informed Choice**– Be sure to gather information about each child care program from all available sources. Review the compliance history of regulated child care in Kansas online at www.kdheks.gov/kidsnet or by calling the Kansas Department of Health and Environment at 785-296-1270. Contact references that the child care provider gave you, and ask questions about other families' experiences with the program.
4. **Stay Involved**– The work is not over when you find good care for your child. You and your child's caregiver are partners now. Visiting and participating in events at your child's program sends a message to your child and caregiver that you think what your child is doing and learning is important. To find additional parenting resources, please visit www.ks.childcareaware.org.