

FACT SHEET



Child Care Options - Overview

Legal, Regulated Child Care:

The Early Learning Division's Office of Child Care (OCC) [regulates child care providers](#), both in homes and commercial spaces. Child care providers and staff must pass a rigorous national background check, have prior experience caring for children, and complete developmentally appropriate health and safety training. OCC also conducts annual visits to child care providers to assess their adherence to health and safety best practices. During the state of emergency, these home and center based programs have been required to register as [Emergency Child Care](#) with the OCC, and follow additional [requirements](#) to reduce the threat of COVID-19 for staff, children, and families in child care.

Regulated family friend and neighbor child care are another subset of providers who accept public payments and are also regulated. These providers may care for up to three children in either their home or a parents' home.

Families can locate licensed child care and regulated family friend and neighbor child care by calling 211 or by texting the keyword "children" or "niños" to 898211 (TXT211). Parents can contact OCC about whether a child care program is regulated at 1-800-556-6616.

Legal, Non-Regulated Child Care:

The following is a brief overview¹ for families of some of the non-regulated options if regulated child care is not accessible to them, or if families are seeking an informal care arrangement:

- **Care for Relative Children:** A family can identify a relative to care for children closely related to them² (e.g., nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren) including the caregiver's own children.
- **Care All Children from One Family:** An eligible³ individual (not related to the family) can care for all the children in one family (whether in the home of the children or in the home of the caregiver).
 - Under this exemption, an individual is allowed to care for one family's children regardless of how many children they have.
- **Care Up To Three Children from More than One Family:** An eligible³ individual (not related to the family) can care for up to three children from other families, in addition to the person's own children.
- **Care as a Parent Cooperative:** A group of parents who want to share the care and education duties with each parent taking a shift may qualify as a Parent Cooperative. Parent Cooperatives

¹ This document is not legal advice and should not be construed as such. Specifically, this document does not address or provide an exception to any physical distancing orders applicable to the general public or any other applicable law. Please contact a licensed attorney if you have legal questions.

² By blood or marriage within the fourth degree as determined by civil law. See ORS 329A.250(4)(c).

³ Certain individuals are not permitted to provide this type of care. See ORS. 329A.252, 329A.030(2)(b).

are limited to providing care for no more than four hours a day. In addition to the four hour limit, the main characteristics of a Parent Cooperative are:

- Care is provided by parents on a rotating basis.
- There are written policies and procedures.
- A board of directors that includes parents of the children cared for by the cooperative controls the policies and procedures of the program.