



**Your
child care
choice is an
important
consumer
decision.**



PATCH

Supporting Hawaii's Child Care Needs

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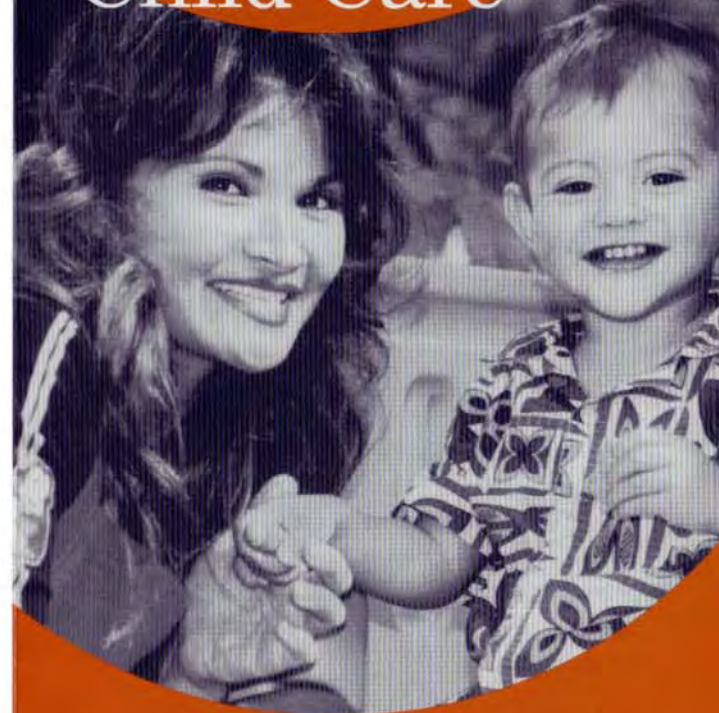
Member:

National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies
Aloha United Way
Kauai United Way

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Choosing Child Care



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5

steps to choosing child care.

Finding Safe, Quality Child Care For Your Keiki

Your child care choice is an important consumer decision. The things at stake are priceless: your child's happiness and well-being, and your peace of

mind. After all, when you buy a car, you shop around, compare quality and price, ask questions, and talk to people to get references and valuable feedback.

Follow these five steps when choosing child care:

1. Look...

...at the child care environment, which should be safe, clean and attractive. Are there plenty of toys and learning materials stored within a child's reach? Are medicines and cleaning products out of reach? See if the caregivers truly enjoy talking and playing with the children. Visit more than once and stay as long as you can to get a good feel for the environment.

2. Count...

...the number of children in the group and the number of adults caring for them. A small number of children per adult is important, especially for babies and younger children.

3. Listen...

...to the child care setting. Do the children sound happy and involved? Are caregivers cheerful and patient? A place that is too quiet may mean not enough activity. On the other hand, a place that is too noisy may mean a lack of control.

4. Ask...

...about the background, training and experience of all caregivers. How do they handle safety, nutrition, discipline and activities? Are they accredited and/or meet high-quality standards?

5. Communicate...

...because quality care for your child depends on both you and the caregiver keeping each other informed. Share information with the caregiver about your child's needs, interests, problems, personality and anything else that pertains to providing the best care for your youngster.

This information was provided by Child Care Aware. Visit them at www.childcareaware.org.

We Can Help

PATCH is Hawaii's statewide child care resource and referral agency working to improve the quality and availability of child care in Hawaii. We've been supporting Hawaii's families and providers since 1976.

PATCH manages a database of child care providers and programs. The child care provider listing is constantly updated because parents need accurate, timely information.

Our referral specialists are available to help with your questions and concerns such as:

- Assistance in locating child care providers in an area that meets your family's needs.
- Supplying you with a provider profile, which includes information on hours of operation, ages served, and program. Referrals are not based on current vacancies providers might have.

- The provider profiles are referrals; we do not rate or recommend any child care programs as the State regulates child care providers.
- Information about quality child care.
- A checklist to assist you while on visits to child care programs.
- Helping your family locate potential child care subsidies.

For more information, please call the PATCH office nearest you, email us at Patch@PatchHawaii.org or visit us online at www.PatchHawaii.org.

