5 Steps to Choosing Childcare



Finding child care is a big decision. VOA is here to help you take it one step at a time.



NEED HELP CHOOSING CHILD CARE?

VOA Child Care Resource & Referral — free, customized referrals to child care providers in your area.

(225) 926-8005
or online:

Early Childhood Care Education
www.voascla.org

PARISHES SERVED:
Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson Davis, Livingston, Rapides, St. Helena, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Vermilion, Vernon, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana.

Volunteers of America South Central Louisiana does not rate or recommend specific child care providers. Choosing child care is a decision each family makes based on its own needs and circumstances.

VOA SOUTH CENTRAL LOUISIANA

1. START YOUR SEARCH

Think about what your family needs. Consider your child's age, where you need care, your work or school schedule, transportation, hours, cost, and any specific needs your child may have.

You don't have to figure it all out alone.

2. GET YOUR OPTIONS

VOA can help you find child care options that fit your family's needs. Talk with a VOA Child Care Resource & Referral specialist for a free, customized referral to child care providers in your area.

VOA can help you search for:

- Child care centers
- Family child care providers
- Programs based on location, age, hours, transportation, and other needs

3. RESEARCH & VISIT

Learn about the programs on your list—and then go see them for yourself.

Before you visit, use LouisianaSchools.com to learn more about the programs you're considering, including licensing and inspection information and available quality information.

Then schedule a visit so you can observe, learn, and ask questions. Ask about:

- Group size and adult-to-child ratios
- Who will care for your child
- Staff experience and qualifications
- What your child's typical day will look like
- How the program communicates with families

RESEARCH CHILD CARE PROGRAMS:

LouisianaSchools.com

4. FIND THE RIGHT FIT

Quality care can look different for different families.

Think about what you learned and how each program fits your family's needs. Ask yourself:

- *Will my child be safe, cared for, and supported here?*
- *Do I feel comfortable with the people caring for my child?*
- *Does this program work for our family's schedule, needs, and budget?*

5. STAY CONNECTED

Choosing care is just the beginning.

Stay involved in your child's experience. Ask questions. Talk with your child's caregivers. Share what your child needs and what matters to your family.

You know your child best.
Your voice matters.