

Child Care



Children's Resource Center 328-8228

4th Floor, First Plaza Building
1985 Tate Boulevard SE
Hickory, NC 28602

www.childrensresourcecenter.org

*Catawba County's "Child Care Resource & Referral" agency. Maintains database on child care availability and provides impartial referrals to child care centers, family child care homes, half-day programs, and access to parenting classes. Also available: Catawba County Center Guide with map, information about choosing quality child care, plus support and training for child care providers. A **SMART START** funded project.*

Child Day Care Unit 695-5721

Catawba County Department of Social Services

3030 11th Avenue Drive SE
Hickory, NC 28602

www.catawbacountync.gov/dss/DC/dccdata.asp

*Provides financial assistance for child care expenses for low to moderate income families. Call for eligibility screening. A **SMART START** funded project.*

Community Schools Program of Catawba County

464-9355

111 West 8th Street
Newton, NC 28658

www.nccs.k12.nc.us/community/commschs.html

Offers before and after school in coordination with public schools for preschool and school-age children.

Creation Station 328-4848

Catawba County Partnership for Children
4th Floor, First Plaza Building
1985 Tate Blvd. SE
Hickory, NC 28602

www.catawbakids.com

A resource room with books, magazines, laminating machines, die cuts machines, lending library of early childhood textbooks, art supplies, etc.

Division of Child Development (DCD) 1-800-859-0829

2201 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27626

www.ncchildcare.net

Monitors and licenses all child care programs in North Carolina. Key responsibility is to assure a safe and healthy child care environment in licensed child care centers and family child care homes in NC. Also provides information to parents about choosing quality child care.

Early Childhood Support Team 256-5084

Tyndall Center for Early Childhood
4431 County Home Road
Conover, NC 28613

*This multi-disciplinary team is made up of counselors and nurses who work with parents to provide support and information on behavioral, emotional, and health issues. Early childhood education specialists provide training and technical assistance to child care programs. A **SMART START** funded project.*

Head Start (ECCCM)

464-8875

310 South Ervin Avenue
Newton, NC 28658

Preschool program for children from low-income families. Assists parents with services such as access to health and dental care, GED education, and others. Transportation available. Four locations in Catawba County. Call for application.

More At Four Pre-Kindergarten Program

345-6284

Catawba County Partnership for Children
4th Floor, First Plaza Building
1985 Tate Boulevard SE
Hickory, NC 28602
www.catawbakids.com

More At Four is a free, public preschool program for 4-year-olds who are at risk for delays in school readiness.

Classrooms are located throughout the county, in public schools and child care centers. Call for more information or to get an application.

How Do I Choose Quality Child Care?

There are many child care options available to parents today. In Catawba County, the main types of care available for young children are:

- Family Child Care Homes
- Child Care Centers
- Church-Affiliated Centers
- Public Preschool Programs
- Half-Day or "Mothers Morning Out" Programs

How do parents identify a child care program that will be safe, healthy, and will be a good fit for what their family needs?

ChildCareAware suggests visiting several different child care programs before deciding which one is best for your needs. Count the number of adults and the number of children they will each be supervising to make certain there is enough adult supervision to ensure safety, and ask about the training and experience of all adults who will interact with your child. How many of the staff have had CPR/FirstAid training? Have all caregivers gone through a background check? Are children supervised at all times, even while sleeping? Visit www.childcareaware.org for more tips.

For more information on N.C.'s child care licensing system, or to check the license status of a particular child care provider, visit the N.C. Division of Child Development's website at www.ncchildcare.net.

What to Look For ...

when I'm visiting a potential child care provider

The **Children's Resource Center**, our local child care resource & referral agency, recommends keeping the following questions in mind when visiting potential child care providers:

Basics

- Is the program licensed?
- Is the facility well maintained with a pleasant atmosphere?
- Are the toys safe and appropriate?
- Are medicines/cleaning products locked away?
- Are the hours acceptable and fees affordable?

Caregivers

- Do the caregivers enjoy playing with the children?
- Are children and parents greeted when they arrive and leave the facility?
- Do the caregivers respond to the children's needs gently and promptly?
- What is the discipline policy?
- Do the caregivers meet with parents regularly and share information about the child on a daily basis?
- Are parents' ideas and input encouraged? Could you be involved?

Activities

- Are the children engaged in interesting and age-appropriate activities?
- Are there plenty of materials in good repair for the children to play with?
- Do the children play outdoors each day? Is the outdoor play area safe and age-appropriate?
- Is there a clear schedule for meals, naps, play in small groups, story time, and individual/quiet time?
- Do the caregivers follow the schedule?
- Are snacks and meals nutritious and appealing?
- Are parents welcome to visit and spend time in the facility?

The **Children's Resource Center** can assist parents in locating suitable child care arrangements, offering non-biased referrals, and can provide information about age appropriate toys, activities and environments. The **Children's Resource Center** will also direct parents to resources for obtaining financial assistance with child care fees. Call 828-328-8228 to speak with a parent counselor.

*The Children's Resource Center is a **SMART START** funded project.*