

Your Child Deserves the Best - Are You Getting It?

Finding the Best Child Care

Number of Children and Adults

- Birth to 18 months - no more than 4 babies for each adult.
- 18 to 36 months - no more than 5 children for each adult.
- 3 to 5 years old - one adult for every 10 children.
- Groups should be small so that every child gets enough attention.

Trained Teachers

- Teachers should be trained in child development.
- They should have college courses and/or special training in child development.
- They should continue to attend classes to learn the newest information about child development.

Staff Changes

- Children should have the same teachers for at least a year.
- Centers that have a lot of staff changes are not meeting a child's need for a stable place.

Quality Rating

In Ohio, child care centers earn star ratings by meeting higher standards. These include:

- ★ Fewer children in each classroom
- ★ More teacher training
- ★ A better early education to prepare children for school

Parents should look for the stars when choosing child care. For more information about Step Up To Quality visit

www.stepuptoquality.org.



Fact: Children in full time child care from infancy to age 6 will spend as much time there as they will in grades 1 through 12. Quality matters.

If you need help paying for child care, call the Hamilton County Department of Job & Family Services at
(513) 946-1800

For more information on finding and choosing quality child care, call 4C at
(513) 221-0033 or
www.4cforchildren.org

Success in Life



Success in Work



Success in School



Quality Early Learning

Why It Matters

Your child's body and brain are growing fast, so she needs quality care to make sure all of her needs are met. No matter who's taking care of your child, the care should be the best. It will make the difference in whether your child is ready for kindergarten and life.

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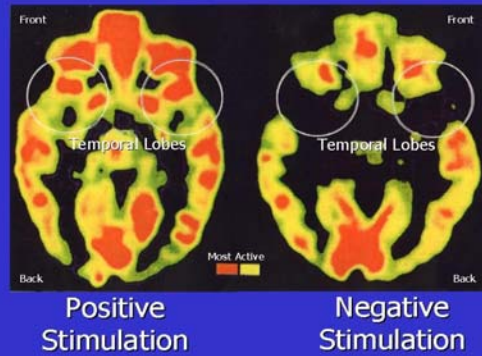
Ready for School?

Everything that happens from birth to age 6 will prepare your child for school. Talking, singing, reading, and hugging are simple ways you can build her brain. Choosing great child care will add caring adults to support her development. What else can you do to get her ready for kindergarten?

To be ready for school, children should:

- Be healthy and have all of their shots.
- Be active and be able to use scissors and pencils.
- Get along with adults and other children.
- Be able to spend time away from parents and to follow rules and routines.
- Use words to express needs and be able to answer questions with more than one word.
- Enjoy books.
- Be able to tell their full name, age and gender.

It's also important to know what your school expects. You want to help your child feel good about school even before she starts. Ask your school for a kindergarten checklist at least 6 months before your child starts school.



Brain Development

Do you know that 90% of brain development happens by age 5? Here's what you can do to help your child's brain grow:

- Give him a loving, safe and stable place to grow and learn
- Hold, cuddle and talk to him in a gentle, calm voice.
- Read to him every day.
- Play simple word games with rhymes and sing simple songs that he can sing with you.
- Choose a quality child care center or home.

Read more about brain growth and early learning at www.sb6uwgc.org and at www.childcareaware.org.

United Way



United Way of Greater Cincinnati

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