

**Consumer Education Information**

**Workforce Solutions – Child Care Services (CCS)** website provides parents with information on Child Care Assistance and the list of **ACCREDITED CCS Providers**: [www.wfsolutions.org](http://www.wfsolutions.org/)

**TEXAS RISING STAR (TRS): CHOOSING QUALITY CHILD CARE:** [www.texasrisingstar.org](http://www.texasrisingstar.org/)

A Texas Rising Star Provider is a child care provider that has an agreement with Workforce Solutions' child care contractor to serve Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) subsidized children and that voluntarily meets requirements that exceed the State's Minimum Licensing Standards for child care facilities. The Texas Rising Star Provider certification system provides graduated levels of certification as providers meet progressively higher certification requirements.

**TEXAS SCHOOL READY (TSR):**

The Children’s Learning Institute implements the *Texas School Ready!* project as an early education approach that serves at-risk preschool-aged children through shared resources between public and private early childhood education programs. The design of *Texas School Ready!* increases children’s school readiness through five evidence-driven components: research-based curriculum, technology-driven child progress monitoring, facilitated teacher professional development, ongoing teacher mentoring, and sustainability; including participation in the Texas School Readiness Certification System (SRCS).

**NATIONAL ACCREDITATION:**

National organizations require child care providers to meet rigorous early childhood education standards and guidelines for high-quality care.

Accreditation is a mark of distinction that helps you find the best possible educational experience for your child. Programs that are accredited have demonstrated their commitment to go beyond the state’s minimum licensing requirements. When a center is awarded accreditation they are meeting very rigorous national standards in health, safety, administration and teacher qualifications, curriculum, communication and community involvement. The program must offer the kind of care, attention, and educational activities parents look for in quality child care programs. It must offer activities and experiences that will aid in a child's growth and development, and that will help them prepare for school.

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**Texas Child Care Solutions –** Resources for Families **–** Opportunities for Children

Developed by the Texas Workforce Commission, the purpose of Texas Child Care Solutions is to provide parents access to accurate and consistent information to assist them in making informed choices to meet their child care needs. Please visit the Online Parent Portal: <http://texaschildcaresolutions.org/>

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**2-1-1 Texas**, a program of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, is committed to helping Texas citizens connect with the services they need. Whether by phone or internet, their goal is to present accurate, well-organized and easy ­to-find information from state and local health and human services programs. They accomplish this through the work of [25 Area Information Centers (AICs) across the state. 2-1-1 Texas is a free, anonymous social service hotline available 24](http://211texas.hhsc.state.tx.us/211/aicMap.do) hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. No matter where you live in Texas, you can dial 2-1-1, or (877) 541-7905, and find information about resources in your local community. Whether you need help finding food or housing, child care, crisis counseling or substance abuse treatment, one number is all you need to know.

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**Texas Health and Human Services Child Care Licensing (CCL)** have a wealth of information on Choosing Child Care, Online Training for Parents of Infants and Toddlers and a lot more. For more information please visit the Texas CCL website: <http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/>

Parents may also obtain health and safety requirements including information on:

 a. The prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations):

 b. Building and physical premises safety;

 c. Minimum health and safety training appropriate to the provider setting and

 d. The regulatory compliance history of child care providers.

 **CCL Office in Harlingen CCL Office in Edinburg**

(956) 423-0130 (956) 316-8275

**Texas AgriLife Extension Service** offers a large number of Child Care Courses that will assist parents in learning about…Developmentally Appropriate Activities, Child Growth and Development, Nutrition and Physical Activity, Child Health and Safety, SIDS, Shaken Baby, And Brain Development to name a few. Many of the trainings are free while others require a small fee. To learn more about available online Child Care Training Courses and Quality Child Care please visit:

<https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/catalog?pagename=Child-Care>