

***Choosing child care is a difficult task - and one that only you, the parent, can do.***

Parent counselors at Partnerships in Child Care can provide you with information on child care options, regulations, child care programs and providers located near your home, work, school, or bus route. This brochure will provide you with helpful information you can use when choosing an appropriate child care arrangement for your family. ***Follow the steps outlined and contact us if you have any questions.***



**REFERRAL SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR:**

**Greater Baton Rouge**

East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana

**Acadiana**

Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Vermilion

**Southwest Louisiana**

Allen, Beauregard, Cameron, Jefferson Davis



**Volunteers of America®**

**GREATER BATON ROUGE**

**OFFICE LOCATIONS**

**Greater Baton Rouge**

3949 North Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806  
Phone: 225-387-0061

**Partnerships in Child Care**

4521 Jamestown Ave., Suite 5  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808  
Phone: 225-926-8005  
Toll free: 1-888-926-8005

**For more information or to make a donation,  
please visit our website:**

**[www.voagbr.org](http://www.voagbr.org)**

# CHOOSING CHILD CARE

*A Guide to Help You  
Make the Right Choice*



**Volunteers  
of America®**

**GREATER BATON ROUGE**



Volunteers of America does not warrant information concerning any provider, nor license, endorse, or recommend any particular provider. Only YOU can determine the care appropriate for your child. Information concerning providers is for referral purposes only.

Permission to reprint from Work/Family Resource Center's Child Care Resource and Referral Winston-Salem, Inc.

This public document is published at a total cost of \$185.00. One thousand copies (1,000) of this public document were published in this third printing at a cost of \$185.00. The total cost of all printings of this document including reprints is \$945.00. This document was published by Volunteers of America Greater Baton Rouge to advise the public of benefits of the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) under authority of the Louisiana Department of Education. This material was printed in accordance with standards for printing by State Agencies established in R.S. 43:31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

**A Community Resource and Referral Service  
of Volunteers of America funded  
through a grant from  
the Louisiana Department of Education**



## 1 CALL

Call the names of the family home providers and child care centers on your list. Let them know you have received their names from Partnerships in Child Care and you are looking for care for your (age) child. Below you will find some questions that you may want to ask. As you ask these questions, take notes on the information you collect. A good time to call is between 1:00 and 3:00 in the afternoon.

### Telephone Questions:

- What time do you open and close?
- Do you serve meals or do I need to bring my child's food?
- What are the ages of the children in your program?
- When I have the time, can I stay and see my child play?
- I would like to come and visit your home (or center). Please give me some directions (if needed).

## 2 VISIT

Visit at least 3 programs. Take your child with you. When you go, look at the area, the caregiver(s), and the children. Below you will find a list of things to check.

### Look at the Area

- Does it look clean and safe for every age child there?
- Is there enough space inside and out so all the children have room to play?
- Are there enough toys and materials for all the children?
- Can the children reach the toys easily?
- Is there time each day for both quiet and active play?

### Look at the Caregiver

- Does the caregiver seem happy to meet your child?
- Does the caregiver use a calm voice and talk to the children on their level?
- How does the caregiver handle challenging behavior?
- Does the caregiver seem to enjoy the children?
- Do I feel good about leaving my child with this person?

### Look at the Children

- Do the children look happy?
- Are they playing?
- Are they given a chance to make choices?
- Can I picture my child playing happily here?



## 3 ASK

Ask the caregiver if you may talk with other parents who use that home or center. Get several names and phone numbers and call these parents. (If the center is not able to give you this information, you may want to go by the center at drop-off time in the morning or pick-up time in the afternoon to talk with some parents.) Here are some questions that might help you.

### Questions for Other Parents

- Are you happy with your child's care?
- Does your child enjoy going there?
- What do you like the most about this child care provider?
- What are some of the things that you don't like?
- If you had to find care again, would your child still go there?

## 4 DECIDE

Decide which child care center or family home provider seems best for you and your child.

- Go over your notes from all the questions you have asked.
- If you feel unsure about a program, visit again. If you are unhappy with all the choices, call Partnerships in Child Care again for more names. If care is hard to find, you may need to try a new area.

## 5 ACT

Act on the hints provided below. They will help you feel good about the care you have chosen.

- Sign a contract before you start care. This helps you and the caregiver avoid surprises. These are items to include in your contract:
  1. The hours the program opens and closes
  2. The days the program will be closed
  3. The things you will need to bring to the program
- Get involved; it's the best way to feel comfortable in a new program. Most centers have parent groups that meet on a regular basis. Or you can help with arts and crafts projects, bring in snacks for parties and get to know the teachers and other parents. You can help make this new experience a happy one for everyone.
- If you are pleased with the care your child receives, tell the provider! Good parent/provider communication benefits your child and is the key to a healthy relationship.

## 6 HELP

- If you have concerns about the way your child is treated, speak to the caregiver. Feel free also to call a Partnerships in Child Care parent counselor as a resource for more information. If you feel the program is not operating according to regulations, contact Partnerships in Child Care for directions about reporting to the proper authorities.

**Help is just a phone call away.**

**Call 225-926-8005**

**Toll Free: 1-888-926-8005**

