

Employee Child Care Guide

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South Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children

Need Help Finding Child Care?



Three easy ways to find child care in South Dakota:

- Call 2-1-1
- [Request email for child care provider options](#) (through SD's Child Care Helpline)
- [Search the Child Care Helpline's database](#)

Choosing child care is one of the most important decisions parents make for children. In partnership with the South Dakota Department of Social Services, the South Dakota [Early Childhood Enrichment \(ECE\) system](#) and the Helpline Center, the [Child Care Helpline](#) is a resource and referral program serving all families seeking care to child care providers in South Dakota.

- Need help finding child care for a special needs child?
- Need help in finding child care during non-traditional hours (like evenings or weekends)?
- Looking for a Pre-K program, summer camp or, after-school program?

[Contact the Child Care Helpline today!](#) Staff work with families to understand their needs and desires, and to help parents make informed decisions. Let experts help you today!

Are you taking advantage of federal tax benefits to help make child care more affordable?

- There is a federal tax credit for child care expenses that allows a modest credit against individual/family taxes owed.
- There is a business employee benefit that enables employees to set-aside money for child care tax-free that can be used to reimburse some child care expenses.

Need help affording the cost of child care?

For lower wage families, child care subsidies are available based on family income. To find out more about the South Dakota [Child Care Assistance Program](#) that helps families afford quality child care, check out the [child care assistance web page](#) under South Dakota's Department of Social Services. Eligible families can earn up to 209% of the federal poverty level and still potentially qualify for child care subsidies. Families with monthly income up to \$3,434 for a family of two, \$4,330 for a family of

three, \$5,225 for a family of four, and \$6,120 for a family of five may be eligible for a subsidy to help make child care more affordable. For more information about child care assistance eligibility: <https://dss.sd.gov/childcare/childcareassistance/eligible.aspx>

For more information about the Child Care Assistance Program: <https://dss.sd.gov/childcare/childcareassistance/>

To apply for child care assistance: <https://dss.sd.gov/childcare/childcareassistance/apply.aspx>

Looking for Child Care?

Download this [child care booklet](#) from the SD Department of Social Services

Download this [list of questions](#) to ask child care providers when searching for care.