



DETERMINING WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD...

Ask yourself...

- What child care hours do I require?
- Do I prefer centre or home-based care?
- Do I need child care close to home, work or school?
- Is the program licensed?

Look for:

- ✓ Children who are happy and engaged
- ✓ An environment that is clean and safe, both indoors and out
- ✓ A setting that is caring, comfortable and welcoming
- ✓ Meals and snacks that are nutritious
- ✓ A current provincial license posted near the entry

Are the Early Childhood Educators or caregivers...

- ✓ Warm, affectionate, responsive, open and informative?
- ✓ Knowledgeable about how children grow and learn?
- ✓ Willing to develop common goals with you and your child?
- ✓ Supportive of children's emotional, social, intellectual and physical well-being?
- ✓ Engaged in ongoing professional development?
- ✓ Registered with the College of Early Childhood Educators (RECE)?

Find child care licensed by the Ministry of Education: familyinfo.ca

WHAT'S BEST... AN INTRODUCTION

In Ontario, there are two kinds of child care: (a) unlicensed, and (b) child care licensed by the Ministry of Education.

Licensed child care programs must meet and maintain specific provincial standards. These standards are intended to protect the health, safety and well-being of children.

Regulations include standards for:

- ✓ maximum group for children of different ages and required number of staff
- ✓ staff qualifications
- ✓ learning programs appropriate to specific age groups
- ✓ nutritious meals and snacks
- ✓ positive interaction with staff and children
- ✓ hygiene and cleanliness practices
- ✓ emergency and safety procedures, including monthly fire drills
- ✓ safe indoor and outdoor equipment
- ✓ adequate indoor play space with natural light
- ✓ supporting and recording children's health and development



Need financial help? Fee subsidies are available for those who qualify. Application forms are available at familyinfo.ca, london.ca/childcare or middlesex.ca (enter "child care" in the search window)



YOUR SEARCH IS OVER

GO TO FAMILYINFO.CA

To find English or French speaking licensed child care in London and Middlesex

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PARTNERS PROMOTING THE IMPORTANCE
OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD



Benefits of Child Care Licensed
by the Ministry of Education

WHAT'S BEST... OUR EXPERTISE

Our educators are experts in early childhood education. They have post-secondary education in child development, behaviour guidance, early learning, safety and supporting children with special needs.

In addition to their college or university education, our educators maintain CPR certification, regularly review policies and procedures, keep current with early year's research and best practices. All Early Childhood Educators must also be registered with the College of Early Childhood Educators, a regulating body that sets and monitors professional standards.

Licensed child care programs are committed to life-long learning and continuous improvement. Our educators learn new skills and approaches through exciting professional development opportunities.

Our educators support you in giving your child his or her best start!



WHAT'S BEST... SAFETY AND SECURITY

Parents want to feel secure in knowing that their child is placed in programs that provide added supervision and care.

Licensed child care programs are visited regularly by a Ministry of Education representative to ensure that licensing standards are being followed.

It is a requirement of the Ministry that:

- ✓ children must be supervised at all times
- ✓ indoor and outside equipment is carefully checked daily
- ✓ emergency procedures are followed with proper reporting and documentation

Programs must meet the health and safety standards of the local Health Unit and Fire Department – safeguards which both protect and promote best practices for you and your child.



LICENSED CHILD CARE IN LONDON AND MIDDLESEX

WHAT'S BEST... HEALTHY FOODS, HEALTHY CHILDREN

Food nourishes the body and gives us energy to get through each day. Healthy eating is essential to good health and is a key element in healthy human development, from the pre-natal and early childhood years to later life stages.

Licensed child care regulations require that:

- ✓ staff are trained in safe food handling
- ✓ regular inspections by the Health Unit are conducted to enforce safe food handling policies
- ✓ menus are posted in the centre
- ✓ staff have anaphylactic training for quick response to allergic reactions
- ✓ Health Unit policies are strictly followed



WHAT'S BEST... PLAY-BASED EARLY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Children are naturally curious, active and love to learn!

Our programs are especially designed to engage children in fun early learning activities that appropriately challenge them while building on their own interests and skills.

We guide children in exploring, researching and understanding their world.

We help children to build self-confidence, solve problems, make friends, and learn new skills.

We encourage children to develop their social, emotional, physical and intellectual skills.

We know that the best way to help children "get ready for school" and become life-long learners is to ensure they enjoy learning now.



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✓ Receive child care news ✓ Win prizes and giveaways



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