ASSISTANCE FOR WORKING PARENTS

Who is eligible
How to apply
How to find quality child care

Oregon Department of Human Services
Office of Self-Sufficiency
500 Summer Street NE E48
Salem OR 97301-1073

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact Employment-Related Day Care at 503-945-5944. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.

A 211info representative can assist you with:
- Child care
- Behavioral strategies
- School readiness and tips
- Early childhood development
- Family stress and anxiety
- Parenting classes and support
- Local play groups
- Foster care support
- Basic family resources and much more!

NEED HELP FINDING A CHILD CARE PROVIDER OR OTHER RESOURCES?

211info

Contact 211info: DIAL 211 toll free
Text CHILDREN to 898211
Email: children@211info.org
Visit 211info.org

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EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING
Developmental screening includes questions that give a general idea of how a child is learning, growing, and meeting developmental milestones. Developmental screening tools help assess whether a child would benefit from testing or services to help with learning.

For more information ask your child’s doctor or contact the Early Learning Hub in your area. For a list of hub locations, go to https://oregonearlylearning.com/current-early-learning-hubs/.

HOW TO FIND QUALITY CHILD CARE
Choosing child care is one of the most important choices a parent makes. Quality child care helps your child’s healthy development and success in school.

A quality child care setting offers a variety of child development activities important to your child’s brain development and lifelong learning.

You may get a lower copay if you use a Spark provider. Being a Spark provider shows that the provider has taken the training needed to help children get ready for and be successful in school. To find a Spark provider contact 211Info.

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE
Working families may be able to get help with child care costs, including registration fees, through the Employment-Related Day Care program (ERDC). A family of three with a gross income of less than $3,288 per month could qualify. Gross income is your total salary before taxes or other deductions are taken out. Income limits may change each year. To see current income limits, go to www.oregon.gov/DHS/assistance/CHILD-CARE/Pages/parents.aspx.

The ERDC subsidy helps pay for child care services by a DHS-approved provider. The benefits of using a provider listed with DHS include:

- The provider has passed the criminal and child protective service background check.
- The provider is pre-approved for payment by DHS.
- The provider may have a history of providing child care through DHS.
- Stable child care is important for you and your child.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS
You can use a child care center or a registered or certified family child care home. You also may be able to use a friend or relative or more than one provider.

Each family eligible for child care assistance pays its provider a portion of the child care cost, called the copayment. It is based on the family’s size and income. The family must also pay for child care costs above the DHS maximum rate. For a copay estimate, go to https://apps.state.or.us/cf1/ERDC/.

HOW TO APPLY
Contact your local DHS office. You do not need to come to a DHS office to apply. We can mail you an application and call to set up an interview.

At times the ERDC program may not have any openings. When this happens, families are placed on the ERDC reservation list. Your DHS worker will decide if you meet an exemption to the list.

For more information about the DHS child care program go to www.oregon.gov/DHS.

PROVIDER INFORMATION
DHS will ask the name of your child care provider when you apply for ERDC. DHS needs to approve all providers.

If your chosen provider has not yet been approved, a DHS worker will give you a Provider Listing Form. Providers are required to take training before being approved. The Provider Listing Form will explain what training is needed.

Providers not required to have an Office of Child Care license who are not related to all children in care must have a site visit where care is provided before approval. This includes care done in a child’s home.

After completing and submitting the form, the provider will learn whether DHS has approved the application. You will need to find a different provider if DHS does not approve your choice.