

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Thank you for contacting the New Mexico Kids Child Care Resource and Referral Service, a free service offering assistance with your child care needs. We recognize that choosing child care is an important decision for your family.

New Mexico Kids CCR&R is here to help by offering information about choosing quality child care, but you are ultimately responsible for determining which child care and education program is best for your family.

If while visiting or utilizing child care programs, you notice conditions or practices that cause you concern we urge you to contact us so that we can explain how you can report your concerns to the appropriate authorities. It is essential for providers and/or regulatory entities to know about legitimate concerns so that problems can be addressed, thereby improving the quality of the child care and education programs for all children in our communities.

We encourage you to look carefully over the enclosed checklist to help you make the best choice for your child and your family.

DISCLAIMER: New Mexico Kids CCR&R believes that parents/guardians are best able to choose and evaluate child care for their children because they know their family's needs best. Our goal is to assist families in finding the widest range of available child care situations and to encourage parents/guardians to act on their own knowledge and feelings as they select from among these possibilities. Responsibility for selecting and employing a child care provider rests with each parent/guardian. We cannot guarantee the quality of care offered by child care providers in the database and urge parents/guardians to carefully interview and check references before leaving a child in care. The Office of Child Development, the State of New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department, the University of New Mexico, and the New Mexico Kids CCR&R are not responsible for inaccuracies in either the data contained in or disseminated from the referral database, nor are they responsible for action taken in reference to information provided from the referral database. The above agencies are also not responsible for finding, securing, or insuring continued care for children.

Sincerely,

NM Kids Child Care Resource and Referral Staff

New Mexico Kids Child Care Resource and Referral Service

New Mexico Kids Child Care Resource and Referral (New Mexico Kids CCR&R) believes that every child deserves quality care and that it is every child care provider's responsibility to offer the best child care possible. The parents/guardians that access New Mexico Kids CCR&R are given information and options to help them make appropriate choices about child care. Child care providers are given opportunities for technical support and assistance. New Mexico Kids CCR&R is a free service and strives to support both parents/guardians and child care providers in the State of New Mexico. All information received by New Mexico Kids CCR&R is kept confidential.

New Mexico Kids CCR&R does not discriminate in providing referrals and/or support services on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry, age, disability, medical condition, sexual preference, or other protected status.

New Mexico Kids CCR&R is not a regulatory entity, and therefore does not investigate complaints against providers. However, should New Mexico Kids CCR&R receive a complaint against a child care home/center, the complaint will be documented and forwarded to the proper authorities, child care licensing and/or food program/child care sponsors.

New Mexico Kids CCR&R believes that effective discipline involves skill and patience on the part of the child care provider and enables children to gain self-control and responsibility. Learning about self-discipline is an ongoing process for children. New Mexico Kids CCR&R does not condone physical punishment of any kind (spanking, shaking, verbal abuse, withholding of food or rest, etc.) and believes that physical punishment should never be part of a child care situation. Child care providers listed with New Mexico Kids CCR&R are Licensed or Registered and must follow state regulations concerning discipline in order to keep their Licensed or Registered status.

New Mexico Kids CCR&R will suspend from the referral list any child care provider who does not maintain their CYFD license, active registration status with a food program sponsor, or who has not notified the New Mexico Kids CCR&R of current information regarding phone number/address changes. A suspended provider can be restored to the referral list with verifiable information regarding re-licensure or re-registration with a food program sponsor. All action taken will reflect New Mexico Kids CCR&R's commitment to safeguard children and provide families with the child care options that best meet their needs.

To learn more about early childhood education services in your area or for other technical assistance, contact the following regional Training and Technical Assistance Programs (New Mexico Kids CCR&R Partners) or log onto www.NewMexicoKids.org. Available information includes: Contact information for regulatory agencies in New Mexico, the STARS Quality Rating System, and information of financial assistance & public subsidies. The following New Mexico Kids CCR&R Partners offer toy lending libraries, trainings, and technical assistance in your area

- YWCA CARINO: (505) 254-9922
Counties: Bernalillo, Cibola, Sandoval, Socorro, Torrance, Valencia
- Early Childhood Resource Center- (505) 758-1395
Counties: Taos, Colfax
- SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE- (505) 428-1344
Counties: Santa Fe, Mora, San Miguel, Rio Arriba, Los Alamos
- ENMU-(505) 562-2850
Counties: Guadalupe, DeBaca, Roosevelt, Quay, Harding, Union, Curry
- WNMU-La Familia Resource Center- (505) 538-6483
Counties: Catron, Grant, Sierra, Luna, Hidalgo
- SAN JUAN COLLEGE- (505) 566-3825
Counties: San Juan & McKinley
- FAMILY RESOURCE & REFERRAL - (505) 623-9438
Counties: Lincoln, Chaves, Eddy, Lea
- NMSU LA VIDA INSTITUTE- (505) 527-1149
Counties: Doña Ana, Otero