

# our mission

The Broomfield Early Childhood Council (BECC) has been a Broomfield non-profit since 2015. We are one of 34 Early Childhood Council's across the State in each county to support the health, high quality education, and family support for children ages birth to age 8.

Our mission is to develop a Broomfield County integrated system of care that promotes the health and well-being of young children, their families, and their providers.



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## how to find quality child care



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Broomfield  
Early  
Childhood  
Council

*Supporting parents to feel  
secure about their child 's  
well-being during the day*

# Importance of quality care

Studies show that children who attend quality child care programs are more likely to:

- ~do better in school
- ~get along with others
- ~less likely to drop out of school later in life
- ~become less dependent on social programs

The early years of life are critical to a child's learning and development. Quality child care programs help children get a strong start on the path to life-long success!

## Colorado Shines - Quality Rating Improvement System

Colorado Shines is Colorado's system to rate the quality of Colorado's child care programs, much like a star rating for a hotel or restaurant. This lets the public know the experience, quality and education of a child care site.

Child care programs who participate in Colorado Shines are committed to offering quality and continuous improvement. Ratings are from 1-5.

**Level 1:** Licensed by the State and meets basic health and safety standards

**Level 2:** Meets Level 1 and taking steps to improve quality

**Level 3-5:** Completed an intensive process to demonstrate high quality in health, safety, family engagement, well-trained staff & supportive learning environment.

## Making informed decisions



- Your child's safety, health, and welfare are your first concerns. Every program will have its positive features, but only you can decide what is most important.
- Write down your questions or concerns to discuss with the provider
- Take a tour of the child care, visit more than once
- If your child is older, ask them their opinion
- Consider the cost. Which child care meets the greatest number of your priorities? High cost does not mean greater quality.
- Trust your instincts, you know your child the best!

## Looking & Listening

Watch and listen to what is going on in the classroom or family home child care:

- Are the children happy and enjoying activities?
- Are the sounds in the classroom happy?
- Is the provider's voice soft and gentle?
- Does the provider seem nurturing, loving and responsive to the children?
- Does the provider respond quickly and gently to problems that arise?



## Helpful checklist for finding the right care

*Basics:*

- Does the program have a license and is it posted?
- Do the hours of operation fit your needs?
- Can you afford the fees?
- What do the fees include and not include?
- Does the program provide a parent handbook outlining financial obligations, payment schedule, holiday closing, substitute policy or process if family child care provider is ill?
- Are you in agreement with the curriculum policies and practices?
- Does the philosophy of education fit your expectations?



*Activities:*

- Daily schedules are balanced to include nap time, story time, outside play and individual time.
- Learning opportunities are plentiful and exciting
- Activities are designed to meet your child's age and skill level
- Meals and snacks are provided
- Toys, equipment, and furniture are safe, clean and in good repair and at a level where your child can reach materials
- Materials and toys are large enough to be considered a non-choking hazard
- Children are taken outside, weather permitting
- Sleeping area is in a quiet location