

Child Care Information for Working Parents

Helping Los Angeles County Employees Manage Work and Family Obligations



Los Angeles County
Office of Child Care
(213) 974-4103

Balancing the demands of work and family can be a real challenge. As an employer, the County of Los Angeles is committed to ensuring that its employees succeed, both in the work place and at home. The following programs and policies are intended to ease the tensions between work and family life:

- **Dependent Care Spending Account (DCSA)** is an employee benefit that is available to all full-time, permanent employees. A DCSA allows employees to use pretax dollars for child care expenses. For more information contact your tax advisor, IRS Publication 503, or your Benefits Enrollment Information office.
- **Noon-Time Parenting Seminars** bring parenting information to you at the work place. Contact Tracey Bonam, Personnel and Special Operations, Department of Human Resources at (213) 974-2313, for schedules and locations.
- **Parent Resource Center** includes books, videos, and brochures on a range of topics for parents. To visit the main Resource Center at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, or to host a "Traveling Resource Center," contact Tracey Bonam, Personnel and Special Operations, Department of Human Resources at (213) 974-2313.
- **Family School Partnership** allows employees to schedule and take up to eight hours per month of vacation or compensatory time to participate in their children's school activities. For more information contact your personnel office.

The County of Los Angeles has developed seven employee child care centers for its workforce. These programs are operated by professional child care organizations under contract with County departments. In-kind services by the County serve to reduce operating costs and parent fees.

- **Ages Served:** Six weeks to six years.
- **Hours of Operation:** 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (Crossroads Child Care Center and Discovery Time are the exceptions). Crossroads Child Care Center operates from 6:45 a.m. to 6:45 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Discovery Time operates from 6:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- **Quality of Care:** Five of the Centers are currently accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Accredited programs have demonstrated their ability and commitment to sustain high standards of care. Accreditation is being pursued by the remaining programs.
- **Additional Employee Child Care Programs:** More are being developed in Van Nuys and Chatsworth.
- **Information on Enrollment:** Available at each site.

Community-based Web Site

- More information on *community-based* child care services is just a click away at <http://childcare.co.la.ca.us>

County Employee Child Care Programs:

- **County Kid's Place** (213) 744-6241
2916 South Hope Street
Los Angeles, CA 90007
- **Crossroads Child Care Center** (562) 908-8332
12900 Crossroads Parkway, East Annex
City of Industry, CA 91746
(Serves only DPSS employees)
- **Discovery Time** (626) 458-1373
406 South Second Street
Alhambra, CA 91801
- **Children's Center** (310) 222-4274
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
975 West Carson Street
Torrance, CA 90509
- **Child Development Center** (818) 364-3444
Olive View Medical Center
14445 Olive View Drive
Sylmar, CA 91342
- **Child Care Program** (323) 226-2201
LAC+USC Medical Center
1401 North Mission Road
Los Angeles, CA 90033
- **Rancho Los Amigos Children's Center** (562) 401-7981
7755 Golondrinas Avenue
Downey, CA 90242

County Employees Web Site

- For more information on *County employees* child care resources
www.cao.co.la.ca.us

Discount Options

County employees are eligible for discounted rates at the following child care programs:

Children's World Learning Centers

Calabasas	(818) 591-2486
Chino	(909) 591-0473
Chino Hills	(909) 393-0727
Northridge	(818) 368-5334
Palmdale	(805) 947-0703

La Petite Academy

Diamond Bar	(909) 860-4009
Diamond Bar	(909) 598-2771
Lancaster	(805) 945-1800
Ontario	(909) 947-9887
Palmdale	(805) 272-3708
Saugus	(661) 297-0977
Valencia	(661) 257-9062
Walnut	(626) 913-6084
Walnut	(909) 594-4062

Child Care Resource and Referral (R&R) Services

Families throughout California have access to child care R&R Services. R&R Services help parents of all incomes locate child care programs and assist eligible low-income families with child care costs. Call (800) 543-7793 to learn more about your local R&R agency.

Choosing Quality Child Care

Take time to visit a variety of child care programs. Make appointments and ask a lot of questions. Consider the following issues as you visit programs:

- Is the facility, indoors and outdoors, clean and safe?
- Is the setting licensed? Is the license posted?
- Are you and your child welcomed? What is the teacher turnover rate?
- Are there enough teachers to meet the needs of the children?
- Are the children involved in activities?
- Is the noise level uncomfortable or reflective of many busy children?
- Are there enough materials for the children? Are they in good repair and appropriate for the age group?
- Do the adults engage the children in conversation?
- What is the daily routine? Will your child be comfortable with the pace of the program?
- How are children disciplined?
(Corporal punishment is illegal)
- Are the fees affordable? What other fees are charged?
- What are the policies on vacations and absences? How are accidents reported?
- What opportunities are there for parent involvement?
- Does this program feel comfortable to you and your child?

When your child is enrolled in a program, parents are free to visit at any time.