

Choosing child care can be an overwhelming task for any parent. Starting early can help you prepare and know what to look for in an agency.

Below are the different types of child care available to parents in Tennessee.



## Center Based Care

Groups children by age and is generally operated outside of non-residential, commercial buildings. They are larger, enroll at least thirteen children not related to the provider, and have a dedicated director and multiple staff.

## Group Child Care

Provides child care for small groups of children in a residential-type building or other commercial space. Maximum capacity of twelve children not related to the primary educator.

## Family Child Care

Family child care homes offer care for a minimum of 5 but no more than 7 children who are not related to the primary educator. Up to 5 children related to the primary educator may also receive care in family childcare homes.

## Drop-In Center

Drop-in centers are different from the previous types of child care. They provide care for 15 or more children, but the care is based on the number of hours the child spends at the center. For each child, the care should not exceed 14 hours per week and not more than 7 hours per day during regular working hours (Monday through Friday, 6 am to 6 pm). Drop-in centers may also offer up to six additional hours of care per week in the evenings after 6 pm and on weekends until 10 pm on Sundays, as long as the total number of hours per week does not exceed 20 hours for any individual child.

**If you need any further guidance on the information above, don't hesitate to reach out to the TN CCR&R at (866) 296-3422. You may also contact the TDHS Help Desk at [TDHS\\_CCP@utk.edu](mailto:TDHS_CCP@utk.edu) or by calling 833-TDHS-CCP (833-834-7227).**