

Frequently Asked Questions by Parents about Child Care

Where can I find help paying for child care and other financial assistance?

There are several child care programs and resources in San Mateo County to support families in need:

[4Cs of San Mateo County](#) – The San Mateo Child Care Coordinating Council (4Cs) website maintains information on payment assistance programs and eligibility requirements.

[San Mateo County HSA Resources](#) – Community services and programs providing assistance with child care, medical needs, food and groceries, mental health services and more.

Where can I find child care programs and resources?

[City of San Carlos Family Resource Guide](#) – Options for child care and preschool. This guide is not intended to be all-inclusive, but is a place to start in meeting your family needs.

[4Cs of San Mateo County](#) – A Resource and Referral (R&R) agency for information on finding, planning for, paying for, and accessing affordable, quality child care. The 4Cs also provides information on child care referrals, resource referrals, developmental screening & inclusion services, choosing quality care, paying for quality care, and family education.

[Build Up SMC](#) – An Initiative to Grow and Improve the Supply of Early Care and Education Facilities in San Mateo County.

[San Carlos School District Preschool Programs](#) – Information on program philosophy and registration.

[San Carlos School District After School Programs](#) – Information on elementary school after-hours care, activities and services offered, and registration.

What types of Child Care options are available in San Carlos?

The State of California and the City of San Carlos recognizes two types of child care facilities: in-home (family child care) and commercial (day care centers).

- **Family Child Care** is a child care facility licensed by the State of California that is located in a single-unit residence or other dwelling unit where resident provides care, protection and supervision of children in the resident's home for periods less than twenty-four (24) hours per day for children under the age of eighteen (18). Family child care, regardless of size, can only be

subject to State regulations and are exempt from local planning/use permits, business licenses, and other permits/fees. There are two types of family child care:

- Small- A home that provides family child care for up to six (6) children, or in certain cases, up to eight (8) children
- Large- A home that provides family child care for up to fourteen (14) children
- **Day Care Centers** are usually located in a commercial building where non-medical supervision is provided for infant to school age children in a group setting for period of less than 24 hours. This classification includes nursery schools, preschools, and day care facilities for children and any other day care facility licensed by the State of California.

Additionally, the San Carlos School District offers several preschool and after-school programs. Learn more about SCSD [preschool resources here](#) and [after school resources here](#).

What COVID-19 guidance must child care programs follow?

The [Child Care Industry Guidance per California Department of Public Health](#) provides guidelines that providers must use to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure the safety of children, providers, and families. This is updated as circumstances change.

For the latest information related to COVID-19, visit the below sites:

- [California Department of Social Services \(CDSS\)](#)
- [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#)
- [Early Learning and Care Playbook](#)

To stay informed of statewide COVID-19 updates, please visit www.covid19.ca.gov.

Are there late evening, early morning, or weekend child care services available in San Carlos?

Most Day Care Centers and School District programs in San Carlos operate between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. In-home Family Child Care providers may offer alternative hours to accommodate individual families' needs. Please check directly with the child care provider for most accurate information on operating hours.

Will any San Carlos child care/preschool programs take my child on a drop-in or occasional basis?

Most programs fill their spaces with regular clients or may find drop-ins too disruptive, but others may allow it on a space-available basis. If your occasional child care needs could be accommodated in a regular part-day schedule (e.g. 2 mornings per week), several local Day Care Centers offer options, or in-

home Family Child Care may allow more flexibility. Visit the [San Mateo 4Cs Child Care Referrals](#) for more information.

How can I find a nanny?

Facilities listed on this child care website are State-licensed or exempt centers or homes. You must use a nanny or au pair agency for referrals. You can also use [Trustline](#) for a background check service for in-home child care.