

What do I do if...

A child under supervision of **Eckerd** needs child care for the first time

And I want a School Readiness Provider

- 1) Case manager gives caregiver School Readiness referral.
- 2) Caregiver completes intake at the School Readiness office. If caregiver is a foster parent, they can complete intake online.
- 3) Caregiver receives voucher.
- 4) Caregiver must choose a provider within ten days of receiving the voucher.

And I want a Head Start/Early Head Start Provider

- 1) Complete a Head Start Application for the child and provide requested documentation.
- 2) Head Start will contact you regarding your application status.

And I want a VPK Provider

- 1) Visit the website to complete an online application and upload requested documentation.
- 2) If approved, print the voucher via email.
- 3) Contact preferred provider about the enrollment process.

Need child care while an application is pending, you are on a waitlist, or for more hours than your Head Start or VPK provider offers? Use School Readiness as a wrap-around service.

In choosing a provider, utilize the “Understanding your Early Education Options for 0 to 5 Year Old Children in Care” chart to find a program that can meet the caregiver’s needs and **be sure to check the resources below to find a quality provider within that program**. Remember that foster parents *must* choose a Gold Seal Accredited or Quality Counts for Kids child care provider unless there is not space [Fla. Admin. Code 65C-13.030(2)(d)].

What do I do if...

... I want to find a specific kind of child care provider (i.e. one that can assist medically-complex children); a child care provider in a specific location; or a child care provider with specific hours:

Call Child Care Resource and Referral at: (813) 906-5041. Leave a message indicating you are inquiring on behalf of a child in care and they will return your call within 24-48 hours with a list of child care centers meeting your requirements. Or, you can submit the online form*: <https://www.elchc.org/ccrr-web-intake-form/>

Please note that when you submit the online form, you need to put the parent/caregiver's name and address, but YOUR email, phone, or fax, so that the information comes back to you directly

... I want to ensure the quality of the child care setting:

See if they are a quality provider in the "Hillsborough Quality Child Care Program Listing" booklet or online. The most recent version of the booklet can be found under the "Resources by Age Group... Ages 0 to 5" section of the following website:

<http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/Circuit/Circuit13ESC.shtml>. The booklet will also tell you whether the provider is among those with serious Class 1 violations. If you do not see your provider in the booklet, reference the "Steps for Selecting Quality Child Care for Children under Protective Supervision" pamphlet, which will guide you through determining if any provider is quality. It can also be found in the "Resources by Age Group... Ages 0 to 5" section of the Center for Child Welfare website listed above.

Remember: Always be sure to check the provider's recent licensing history to see if they have any concerning reports:

<http://sanswrite.hillsboroughcounty.org/public/>

... I'm worried about my child's development or speech/language skills, and my child is:

- **0 to 2 years, 10 months:** contact Early Steps at: (813) 974-0602
- **2 years, 10 months to 5 years and they attend ...**
 - ... A School Readiness Provider: Ask your child's teacher to contact School Readiness or call them yourself at: (813) 744-8941
 - ... A Head Start Provider: Talk to your program about evaluations and services they may be able to offer: Head Start BOCC, (813) 272-5140; Head Start HCPS, (813) 744-8941; Eckerd Early Head Start, 1-888-898-7978
 - ... Neither a School Readiness nor a Head Start Provider: Contact Early Childhood Council for a free developmental screening at: (813) 837-7723