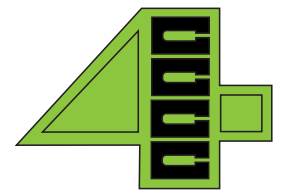


Child Care Select[®] Photo Gallery of Centers



Kent Regional 4C
 Your Community
 Child Care Connection

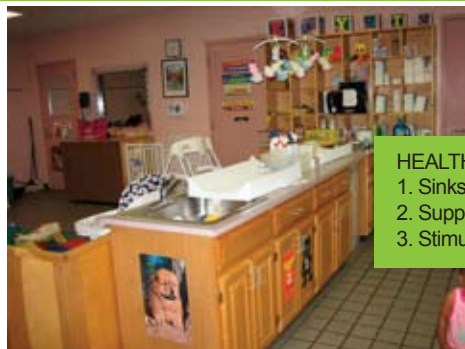
Kent Regional 4C is proud to present the **Child Care Select**[®] Photo Gallery of Centers. The photos were taken at programs accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. **Child Care Select**[®] symbols are also shown to help you when choosing quality child care. Look at the photos, how many signs of quality do you see?



CURRICULUM: Things to look for in the activities for children:
 1. Children can reach toys so they can learn to do things for themselves
 2. Toys support children playing with one another to learn how to get along
 3. Quiet places to play (loft in the background) so children can chose from a variety of activities



ENVIRONMENT: Things to look for in the environment:
 1. Labels for materials and toys help children find what they need
 2. Wading pool with pillows offers a cozy reading spot increasing the child's interest in reading
 3. Bathroom is handy to the classroom for supervision, and the half door allows privacy for the child



HEALTH: Things to look for about safe and healthy practices:
 1. Sinks are accessible to diapering area providing easy clean ups
 2. Supplies for diapering and/or toileting are organized so the adult can find what is needed
 3. Stimulating materials are available during diaper changes encouraging adults to talk with babies about the world around them



STAFF: Things to look for in staff and relationships:
 1. Caregivers show a strong interest in each child and engage them in conversations
 2. Children receive individual help with their activities when needed
 3. The caregiver has appropriate education and experience, and the rate of staff turnover at the center is low



RELATIONSHIPS: Things to look for in staff and relationships:
 1. One-on-one time with each child sometime during the day so children feel valued and cared for
 2. Trusting relationships between child and caregiver
 3. The staff ratio and group size meet or exceed licensing requirements



Turn this page over for information on **Child Care Select**[®] Symbols and Checklist.

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(616) 451-8281 or 1-800 448-6995

Child Care Select® For Centers








Symbols and Checklist








In your search for quality child care and education, use these symbols and the checklist when you contact your referrals.

Child Care Select® Symbols

Child Care Select® Essentials are symbols that are designed to help you look for standards essential to quality in all environments.






-  **Licensed**
Meets rules and regulations established by the state for child care centers, preschool programs, and before/after school programs
Has staff who meet specific education and experience qualifications
Written health care plan
Has minimum ratios of adults to children
Meals meet USDA nutritional guidelines
-  **Staff**
Lead teachers attend more than 12 hours of training annually
-  50% of lead teachers have an early childhood credential, such as CDA
-  50% of lead teachers have an AA, BA, or MA degree in early childhood or a related field
-  **Environment**
Provides activities and toys for active and quiet play
Organizes toys so children can reach them independently
Has outdoor play space for all ages of children
-  **Business Practices**
Has a written contract or agreement with each parent that states responsibilities for both parents and providers
Keeps necessary financial records using an accepted recordkeeping method
-  **Accreditation**
This program meets the national standards and has been assessed by a national accreditation body

Child Care Select® Electives are symbols that are designed to help you look for standards you choose to fit your lifestyle and your current needs.

-  **Pets**
There is a pet living at the program
-  **Fenced Yard**
Property is fenced in
-  **Water**
Water is on or near the property. May be: ornamental pond, natural body of water, pool or hot tub
-  **Sibling Discount**
Program offers a discount in fees for more than one child in care from a family
-  **Transportation**
Program transports children to and from home or school

Child Care Select® Questions

Remember these questions when looking at Child Care Select® Essential symbols...

-  **Licensed**
 - 1) What training has the provider had in the past year?
 - 2) How does the provider follow the USDA nutrition requirements?
 - 3) What is the provider's health care plan for sick children?
 - 4) Does the program have a better child to adult ratio than required by licensing?
-  **Staff, Relationships**
 - 1) Does the provider have more annual training than what is required by licensing?
 - 2) Does the provider have a Child Development Associate or Montessori Credential, an Associate's, Bachelor's or higher degree in Early Childhood or related field?
 - 3) Take time to watch staff with children. Does each child receive individual attention? Does the provider act as a role model demonstrating courtesy and respect?
 - 4) What is the provider's discipline policy?
-  **Accreditation**
 - 1) When did the program achieve accreditation?
 - 2) What do they do to maintain it?
-  **Environment, Curriculum**
 - 1) Look at the outdoor play area. Is there equipment for the age of your child? Is equipment well maintained?
 - 2) Where will the children do "messy" learning activities like art or water play?
 - 3) Where will the children take naps?
 - 4) Is there child-sized furniture and equipment?
 - 5) Can the children reach toys and materials safely and on their own?
 - 6) Does the provider follow environmentally-friendly practices?
 - 7) Are there a variety of activities for each child: art experiences, books, blocks, and pretend play?
 - 8) Are there toys and activities designed for the age of your child?
 - 9) What does the provider's daily schedule look like?
 - 10) Where are diapers changed?
 - 11) What is the provider doing to reduce allergy irritants?
 - 12) How often does everyone wash hands?
 - 13) Can the parent see weekly menus?
-  **Business Practices**
 - 1) Does the provider have a contract that describes services and fees?
 - 2) Does the provider have a handbook for parents?
 - 3) Will the parent get receipts for payments made?

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