

How to Find Child Care



Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) is a FREE community service that offers information and referral services to all families seeking care for infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers. Services include before-and-after-care for school-aged children. Summer camp information is also available.

CCR&R helps families to find early education programs that best meet their needs. Trained staff will answer questions about choosing quality early learning programs and provide parents with a list of referrals that is customized to their needs.

Some of these specifications include the child's age, desired location or preference for type of care-such as Centers, Family Care Homes or School-age Care.

Visit our website and apply for these services on-line or call our Fort Myers office for more information.

Our Offices

Fort Myers Office

2675 Winkler Ave. Suite 300
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Hours: 8 am – 5 pm weekdays
(239) 935-6100

Collier Office

3050 N. Horseshoe Dr. Unit 231
Naples, FL 34104
Hours: 8 am – 5 pm weekdays
(239) 213-1137

Hendry County – LaBelle Office

United Way House
133 N. Bridge St. LaBelle, FL 33935
Hours: 9 am – 4 pm every Thursday*

Hendry County – Clewiston Office

CareerSource of Southwest Florida
215-B S. Francisco Street
Clewiston, FL 33440
Hours: 9 am – 4 pm every Wednesday*

Collier County – Immokalee

RCMA Building C
402 W. Main St.
Immokalee, FL 34142
Hours: 8 am – 5 pm weekdays*

*Closed for lunch noon to 1 pm



EARLY LEARNING
COALITION
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

*Nurturing the children
of Southwest Florida
and those who care for them!*



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2675 Winkler Avenue
Suite 300
Fort Myers, FL 33901
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www.ELCofSWFL.org



The Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK) is free for all Florida families. High quality preschool experiences have shown to increase a child's chances of succeeding in school and earning more as an adult.

VPK is free for all children who turn four years of age on or before September 1 of the program year. Some 5-year olds may also be eligible depending on their birth date.

The program allows for 540 classroom hours during the traditional school year (averages to about three hours a day depending on the program) or a 300 hour summer program (averages 7.5 hours a day but schedules may vary). Parents may choose the program best suited for their family.

There are no income requirements for VPK. To apply, visit: familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com

Southwest Florida Stars



is the voluntary Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) used to measure and improve the level of quality in early childhood programs. Southwest Florida Stars rates child care centers and

family child care homes through a process of site visits and off-site data collection resulting in a 1 to 5 star rating.

Parents now have a simple way of learning about the quality level of child care providers so they can make the best choices for their children. To learn more about the Southwest Florida Stars Program visit www.ELCofSWFL.org.



Florida families with low incomes who are trying to work or get training may be eligible for school readiness help.

The School Readiness Program offers financial assistance for early childhood education and care. This allows families to become financially self-sufficient while their children are learning the skills needed to be successful in school.

The program takes into account the child's physical, social, emotional and intellectual development and involves parents as their child's first teacher.

The School Readiness Program provides developmental screenings for children and referrals to health and education specialists. It works in cooperation with other programs for young children such as Early Head Start, Head Start and VPK.

For more information visit www.ELCofSWFL.org



Literacy Buddy Program



Each school year, the Early Learning Coalition sponsors the Literacy Buddy Program which provides children with books of their own to take home and share with their families. The program also encourages children to express themselves through letter-writing with their adult buddy.

You can become a Literacy Buddy!

- A literacy Buddy volunteer agrees to receive letters from a 3, 4 or 5-year old child in an early learning facility served by the Early Learning Coalition.
- The volunteer sends a letter and a high-quality book in response to the child's letter.
- This exchange takes place three times from mid-fall to spring.

For more information contact:

LiteracyBuddies@ELCofSWFL.org

