



**COLORADO
SHINES**
START EARLY
START STRONG
QUALITY EARLY LEARNING



Arapahoe County
Early Childhood Council

Need Help Finding Child Care?

- 1. Contact the Child Care Referral Program as soon as you know you will need child care, even if your child is not yet born.** A Child Care navigator will do their best to assist you immediately, otherwise expect a response within 1 business day.
- 2. 15-20 minutes up front can save hours of searching.** A Child Care Navigator will help evaluate your specific child care needs and search their database of licensed child care providers. You will receive a customized list of 10-20 providers that match your family's needs.
- 3. Take your time interviewing child care providers.** Referrals include only licensed child care providers that meet minimum state health and safety requirements. Visit child care providers and decide who will be the best caregiver for your child or children. It is recommended that you visit at least three child care programs before making your decision.
- 4. Always ask for references and be sure to call them.** All reputable child care providers will offer names and phone numbers of client families. Ask detailed questions, especially whether they were satisfied and if they would use the provider again.
- 5. Before enrolling, check for complaints or licensing violations.** Contact the Colorado Division of Early Care and Learning at (303) 866-5958 or search online at [ColoradoShines.com/search](https://coloradoshines.com/search) to get access to background summary information. We also suggest that you ask the provider to see their most recent licensing inspection report.