

# Childcare

## Children with Special Healthcare Needs



If your child has special healthcare needs or a disability, you will want a childcare provider who has experience and the skills to care for your child. The provider may need to adapt activities so that your child can participate and be successful. Most of all, it is important to find a provider who will work with you to meet the needs of your child in a safe and enriching environment.

Finding childcare is a challenge for any parent or caregiver. You may need help and support as you look for the right person or place. Look to the people around you to learn about options. You never know who may be willing to help. Talk with your child's Early Intervention provider to learn about possible resources. Speak with other parents as they may know of a childcare center or person who has experience caring for children with special needs. With help from others, you will find the person who will provide the quality care you want and need for your child.

When you start your search for a childcare provider, plan to visit the childcare program. Talk to the provider about their experience and training in caring for children with special needs. Ask about the ratio of children to adults and be sure to get references!

Once you find a provider, it is important to share information about your child's needs. You may want to create a Care Notebook, binder or a document with information about your child. Include information about your child's physical and medical needs as well as information about their favorite activities and how they communicate. There are many tools and resources available to create a Care Notebook.

Family TIES of Massachusetts provides information, referral, and parent to parent support for families of children with special health needs or disability and their professional partners. We also provide information about Early Intervention (EI) and maintain a complete list of EI Programs in Massachusetts.

The information provided on the back page of this sheet is not a complete list of the resources that may be available. For information about community based programs, resources and local support groups, please call your Regional Coordinator or our toll-free line 800-905-TIES (8437).

We publish an annual *Directory of Resources for Families of Children and Youth with Special Needs*. The Directory is always listed as the first place to look for resources on our Topic Sheets!

Call us if you would like a copy of the directory mailed to you. A pdf version of the directory is available to download on our website [www.massfamilyties.org](http://www.massfamilyties.org). You can also find the phone number for the Family TIES Regional Coordinator for your area on our website.



## Information and Resources

### Family TIES Resource Directory:

- Under *Childcare Resources and Referral Networks* and *Respite Family Support and Skilled Nursing*

### Massachusetts Department of Public Health Programs:

- Mass.gov - Find a Licensed Family, School Age or Center-based Child Care Program  
<https://www.mass.gov/guides/find-a-licensed-family-group-or-school-age-child-care-program>

### Other Massachusetts State Agency Programs:

- The Department of Early Education and Care  
[https://eeclead.force.com/EEC\\_ChildCareSearch](https://eeclead.force.com/EEC_ChildCareSearch)
- MA Child Care Resource & Referral Network  
<http://machildcareresourcesonline.org/>

### Statewide:

- Family Resource Centers  
<https://www.frcma.org/>
- Family Support Centers  
<https://www.mass.gov/lists/dds-family-support-services-information#dds-family-support-directory->

### Resources for Creating a Care Notebook:

- Directions: Resources for Your Child's Care  
<https://www.mass.gov/directions-resources-for-your-childs-care>
- National Resource Center for Patient/Family Centered Medical Home Building Your Care Notebook  
<https://medicalhomeinfo.aap.org/tools-resources/Pages/For-Families.aspx>

### Other Resources:

- Care.com  
<https://www.care.com/>
- Welcoming ALL Children, Creating Inclusive Childcare 2nd Revised Edition  
<https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/styles/iidc/defiles/ecc/welcomingallchildrenrevisededition2014.pdf>