

PARENTAL CHOICE OF CHILDCARE PROVIDER

As the parent, or the child's caretaker, you have the right to select the childcare provider that best suits your needs. There is a full range of providers eligible for payment. They range from daycare centers, school-age childcare programs, group family daycare providers, family daycare providers and legally-exempt daycare providers. Brief descriptions of the programs are as follows:

- Daycare centers provide care to large groups of children from infants through school age.
- School-age childcare programs provide before and after school care for older children. They usually have all day programs for "days off" and some school breaks.
- Group family daycare providers care for 7 to 12 children in a home, with the help of an assistant. One or two more children may also come after school.
- Family daycare providers care for 3 to 6 children in a home. One or two more children may also come after school. These are also known as registered providers.
- Legally-exempt daycare providers can be family, friends or relatives.

The Cayuga County Department of Social Services has arrangements for making payments to most of the daycare centers, school age childcare programs, group family daycare providers and family daycare providers in Cayuga County. If your chosen provider is new to us, we will contact them to establish a method of payment.

Legally-exempt caregivers must be enrolled (approved) by Child Care Solutions **before** payment can be authorized. If, for some reason, the legally-exempt provider cannot be enrolled (approved), you are responsible for payment to that provider. A legally-exempt provider must meet certain criteria to be enrolled. If you have any questions, contact Child Care Solutions at either 315-446-1220 x303 or 1-888-729-7290 (toll free).

You may also request a childcare certificate, which will assist you in selecting from the full range of childcare providers.

If you have any questions regarding daycare programs or payments, please call the Day Care Unit at 253-1539 or 253-1218.

For assistance in finding a child care provider, please call Child Care Solutions at either 315-446-1220 x303 or 1-888-729-7290 (toll free).