

Licensed or Registered Providers

All licensed and registered providers must meet standards established by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). [Click here](#) to view child care regulations.

- **Licensed Providers:**

- **Day Care Centers:** facilities (not homes) that provide child care for more than 3 hours per day
- **Group Family Day Care:** is care provided in a home for no more than 7 – 14 children, by a caregiver with an assistant, for more than 3 hours per day.

- **Registered Providers:**

- **Family Child Care Homes:** is care provided for 3 – 6 children and 2 school age children in the provider's home. There must be a caregiver for every two infants in care.
- **School-Age Child Care:** is a day care program conducted in a facility for 7 or more school-age children

Legally Exempt Providers

All legally exempt providers must comply with NYS OCFS' basic health and safety requirements. There are three types:

- **Family Child Care:**

- Care provided for 1 or 2 children outside the child's home in a caregiver's residence who is at least 18 years of age, OR:
- Care provided by a relative: grandparent, great grandparent, aunt, uncle, adult brother or sister, or first cousin of the child.

- **In-Home Child Care:**

Care in the child's own home by a provider chosen and monitored by the child's parent or guardian.

- **Group Child Care:**

Care provided by caregivers meeting state requirements but not required to be licensed by, or registered with New York State.

Examples include:

- Pre-Kindergarten Programs
- Nursery Schools
- Summer Day Camps

NOTE: To qualify to receive payment, informal/legally exempt providers MUST be enrolled with Suffolk County's contracted Child Care Resource and Referral Agency:

Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc.
60 Calvert Avenue
Commack, New York 11727
(631) 462-0303
<http://www.childcaresuffolk.org>

Legally Exempt Provider Enrollment forms may be obtained from Suffolk County DSS' Child Care Unit by calling: (631) 854-3349

IMPORTANT: If the provider fails to complete the enrollment process, the Department cannot authorize child care services with, nor make payment to, the provider. If your child received child care services from the provider without DSS authorization, you will be fully responsible for any child care costs you incurred.