

## *Need help finding quality childcare?*

### **There are several types of childcare options:**

**Childcare Centers** - state licensed facilities that provide care for 7 or more children; inspected yearly

**Group Day Care Homes** - state licensed facilities that provide care for up to 12 children; inspected yearly; can be in a home or facility-based setting.

**Family Day Care Homes** - home-based child care for up to 6 children; individuals are registered with the state; random inspections are performed by the State

**Relative/Neighbor Care** - non-registered childcare providers; can legally watch up to 3 children

**School Age Child Care (SACC)** - before and after school care

### **There are many programs available in Pennsylvania to assist you in finding the best childcare and early learning opportunities for your child:**

**Keystone Stars** is a quality improvement program for child care providers. The Office of Child Development (OCDEL) administers its rating system, a tiered level of quality performance standards that starts with STAR 1, which is slightly above Pennsylvania performance standards, and progresses to STAR 4, which is similar to the standards of NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children). Participating child care providers are measured in three areas: the staff, your child's environment, and the way the facility conducts business. For more information on Keystone Stars, or to find a STAR facility in your area, click [here](#).

**Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts**, established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, provides quality pre-kindergarten to 3 and 4 year olds across the Commonwealth. PA Pre-K Counts is **free** to qualifying families. For more information on PA Pre-K Counts, or to find a site in your area, click [here](#).

**Head Start** is a federally funded, comprehensive preschool program for children from low-income households, including children with special needs. Head Start is for 3 and 4 year old children. Early Head Start programs are also available for children ages birth to 3 and pregnant women. To be eligible for Head Start, families must have an income below the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Below are the 2008 HHS Poverty Guidelines:

<b>Persons in Family/Household</b>	<b>Pennsylvania Income</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>\$10,400</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>\$17,600</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>\$21,200</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>\$24,800</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>\$28,400</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>\$32,000</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>\$35,600</b>
<b>for each additional person, add</b>	<b>\$3,600</b>

For more information on PA Head Start in your county, click [here](#).