

California Child Care Resource & Referral Network

Working to meet child care needs throughout California



Resource & Referral

Child care resource and referral agencies (R&R) are state-funded, community-based programs that exist in every county in California. R&Rs make up a well-developed system that supports parents, child care providers, and local communities. The California Department of Education, Child Development Division has supported these efforts since 1976. R&R services are free and available to all parents and child care providers.

Local R&R agencies:

- Partner with families to help them find and choose child care that best meets their needs
- Document parents' requests for child care services
- Maintain comprehensive databases of child care providers in their communities, including licensed family child care homes and child care centers
- Track providers' licensing status, the languages they speak, the age groups they serve, the schedules they offer, and the number of spaces available in centers or family child care homes
- Work with child care providers to improve the quality of care and to maintain and expand the supply in their county
- Provide training and other services that help child care providers stay in business
- Educate local communities and leaders to understand child care issues and to plan effectively to address child care needs
- Respond to the community's changing needs and refer families to other community services

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California Child Care Resource & Referral Network (Network), founded in 1980, coordinates services that assist local R&R agencies in providing guidance to parents, child care providers, policy makers, and business and community leaders in each county.

The Network:

- Works closely with elected officials and state and local leaders to ensure broad-based understanding of child care issues
- Works with local, regional and statewide agencies to maintain, increase and improve the supply of child care through special programs that promote child care as a profession
- Collects, analyzes and publishes statewide and county specific research on the supply, demand and cost of child care services, along with reports on the child care workforce, and economic factors affecting the child care system
- Produces materials and tools that educate parents to be good child care consumers
- Trains local agencies to recruit and prepare child care providers for jobs in the field