



Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast

Serving Citrus – Dixie – Gilchrist – Levy – Sumter Counties



Dear Parents,

Thank you for contacting Child Care Resource and Referral. It is our goal to assist you in locating a quality child care program that meets your family's needs. Choosing an early care and education provider is one of the most important decisions that families make. It is important to choose a provider who meets the needs of your child and with whom you feel comfortable. Enclosed are the child care referrals that you requested as well as some additional information that may help you in the child care selection process. Please note that these referrals were computer generated using the selection criteria that you provided and we **do not license, endorse or recommend any particular provider**. Each family's situation and each child are unique; therefore, only you can best determine which program is right for you and your child.

Currently, we service Citrus, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, & Sumter counties. Our hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Our database includes all legally operating providers (those that have met all state and local licensing or registration requirements). It is essential that you make at least one unannounced visit before making your child care selection. We also recommend you contact the Department of Children and Families licensing office (listed below) to review provider files prior to making a child care selection for your child(ren). Click the following link to access useful tools that will help you make your child care choice. http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/EarlyLearning/OEL_CCRN_Networks.html

Here are some resources that may be of interest to you:

- Review Provider License Files—contact Department of Children and Families at 1-877-464-2212 or 352-330-2177 for Citrus & Sumter Counties; 904-723-2064 for Dixie, Gilchrist, & Levy Counties or access their licensing web page, <http://dcfsanswrite.state.fl.us/Childcare/provider>
- Voluntary Prekindergarten and Readiness Rate Information: <http://www.fldoe.org/earlylearning>
- Agency for Workforce Innovation's Early Learning Call Center: 1-866-357-3239 or <http://www.flready.com>
- Child Abuse Registry contact information: <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us> or 1-800-962-2873
- Central Directory of Early Childhood Services (providing services to children with special needs): 1-800-654-4440 or you can access their web page, <http://www.centraldirectory.org>
- Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast <http://www.elc-naturecoast.org/> 1-877-336-5437 toll free Main Office
- Florida KidCare (health insurance program): <http://www.floridakidcare.org> or 1-888-540-5437

Please be aware that programs with a Gold Seal designation have demonstrated a commitment to providing a high quality program for young children and their families. If you need additional child care referrals, community services/information or would like information about Voluntary Prekindergarten or School Readiness programs, please feel free to contact us at 352-563-9939 (Citrus), 352-490-5855 (Dixie, Levy, Gilchrist), 352-793-5430 (Sumter). You can also visit our child care resource and referral website for parents, www.elc-naturecoast.org. If you would like to send a comment or concern to the Agency for Workforce Innovation's Office of Early Learning, about the services you received, please call 1-866-357-3239.

Sincerely,

Child Care Resource and Referral Specialist

If you are dissatisfied with the child care resource and referral services, you have the right to submit disputes and/or disagreements regarding these services to the Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast at 352-563-9939 / 877-336-5437. For any issues in the area of discrimination and/or harassment, the grievance must be filed in writing within one year of the alleged behavior. For issues in the area of disability/accommodations, the grievance must be filed within 20 calendar days. For a complete copy of this policy, please contact the Early Learning Coalition.

Main Office

1564 N. Meadowcrest Blvd.
Crystal River, FL 34429
(352) 563-9939
(352) 563-5933 fax

Chiefland Office

212 N. Main St.
Chiefland, FL 32626
(352) 490-5855
(352) 490-6762 fax

Bushnell Office

114 Jumper Dr North
Bushnell, FL 33513
(352) 793-5430
(352) 793-6230 fax