

# Child Care Options for Children with Autism

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Finding child care for a child with autism can be challenging. While more agencies are seeking to support and serve children with special needs, many are not able to provide accommodations for children with autism, especially those who need more support. You may need to help child care providers and agencies better understand your child's specific needs and what accommodations and adjustments they can make to help your child be safe and successful in their setting.

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## What resources are there for finding child care?

### Child Care Aware of Washington Child Care Resource Line

800-446-1114

[childcarenet.org/families/family-resources-1/your-child-care-search](http://childcarenet.org/families/family-resources-1/your-child-care-search)

Help with finding child care providers who might be able to provide accommodations including behavior supervision, communication support, diapering, self-care, and experience with sensory integration.

### Working Connections Child Care Program

#### For families with low income

844-626-8687

[dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/getting-help/wccc](http://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/getting-help/wccc)

- Helps families with low incomes pay for child care while they work.
- When a family qualifies for child care subsidy benefits and chooses an eligible child care provider, the state pays a portion of the cost of child care. The parent also pays a co-payment to the provider.
- Parents of children with special needs may qualify a higher rate to help pay for child care.

To apply:

Contact DCYF Customer Service Call Center at 844-626-8687, or apply online at [dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/getting-help/wccc](http://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/getting-help/wccc)

- Complete the application for child care subsidy assistance, request "special need care."
- A special needs team will conduct an assessment with you to learn about your needs and determine level of funding subsidy for the special need.
- You will need to provide your child's IFSP, IEP, medical documentation, and any mental health or psychological assessments.
- If you have a caregiver identified, funds from this program can be used to pay this person to watch your child in the home after a background check and paperwork is done.

### Seattle Milk Fund

[seattleMilkFund.org](http://seattleMilkFund.org)

- Provides child care grants to families with one or more parents in college full time in King, Pierce or Snohomish Counties.
- Parents must apply and meet income guidelines and other requirements.

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## To Learn More

- Autism Center  
206-987-8080
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- [seattlechildrens.org](http://seattlechildrens.org)

## Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line, 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.



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### Care.com

Find or post positions for local special needs babysitters, caregivers, nannies and child care professionals near you. Child care is fee-for-service and is often costs more than a daycare center or child care agency. Free search is available. Fees apply for extended searches.

### Child Care Check

[findchildcarewa.org](http://findchildcarewa.org)

Washington State's licensed child care status and record database. You can search providers and find out background check status, licensing history, monitoring reports and more.

### Craigslist.com

Find or post positions for local babysitters, caregivers or nannies and child care professionals near you. Post or search in "Education" or "Childcare" sections.

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## Connect with other parents for resources and ideas

You may find resources and ideas through Facebook and other online groups.

Children and teens:

- Autism Moms of Seattle Facebook Group. Sub-groups available for parents of children who are non-verbal, have challenging behaviors, teens and adults.
- Washington Autism Advocacy Facebook Group
- Feat of Washington Facebook Group
- Parent-to-Parent Facebook groups. Closed and moderated groups for parents and loved ones of people with developmental disabilities in King County.  
[arcwa.org/resources/P2PVirtualSupportGroupsUpdatedSept2016.pdf](http://arcwa.org/resources/P2PVirtualSupportGroupsUpdatedSept2016.pdf).
- AutismKing Yahoo Group. For parents of children with all forms and severity levels of autism in King County. A great place to connect with others for support, understanding, information and resources. To subscribe send an email to [autismkingsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:autismkingsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)
- Parents Place Yahoo Group. For parents in King County who are raising kids with special needs including autism. To subscribe, send an email to [parentsplace-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:parentsplace-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

Adults with Autism:

- IntoAdulthood Yahoo Group. For parents and family members of young adults with special needs in King County. A great place for mutual support, information sharing and resources. To subscribe, send an email to [intoadulthoodsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:intoadulthoodsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Adult ASD:

[adultasd.org](http://adultasd.org) (Seattle, King County and surrounding areas in Washington).

### What options does Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) offer?

- If your child is enrolled in DDA and gets services through a DDA waiver and/or the Community First Choice (CFC) program, your child may qualify for respite and personal care support. Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) **does not** pay for child care.
- Ask your DDA case manager for more information. Avoid using the terms child care when working with DDA.
- For a listing of DDA offices in Washington and to learn if your child might be eligible for DDA services, visit [dshs.wa.gov/dda](https://dshs.wa.gov/dda)

### What is the difference between child care and respite care?

Respite is a break for parents and caregivers so they may get relief from caring for their loved one with a disability. During respite, the person with a disability receives care from a trained provider while the parent or caregiver can rest and rejuvenate. For information about respite and finding respite resources, visit [arcofkingcounty.org/resource-guide/care-respite/overview.html](https://arcofkingcounty.org/resource-guide/care-respite/overview.html)

Reference to specific services does not constitute or imply recommendation or endorsement by Seattle Children's.

Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201. This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

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