

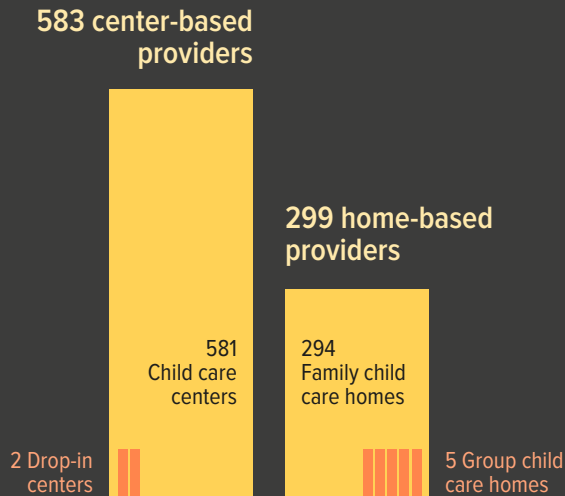
CHILD CARE

IN SHELBY COUNTY | FACT SHEET

High-quality care promotes social, emotional, and cognitive development.¹⁻⁴

TYPE OF CARE PROVIDERS

There are 882 licensed child care providers that include care for children under age 5.



Child care centers serve 13 or more children.

Drop-in centers provide care for 15 or more children, but only for a limited number of hours—generally, less than 20 hours per week.

Family child care homes serve 5 to 7 children unrelated to the provider. As many as 5 additional children related to the primary caregiver may also be cared for.

Group child care homes serve 8 to 12 children. Up to 3 additional school-age children may receive care before and after school, as well as on holidays and during summer vacation.

QUALITY STANDARDS

661 licensed by Department of Human Services

NAEYC accreditation 29

3 star accreditation 402

2 star accreditation 59

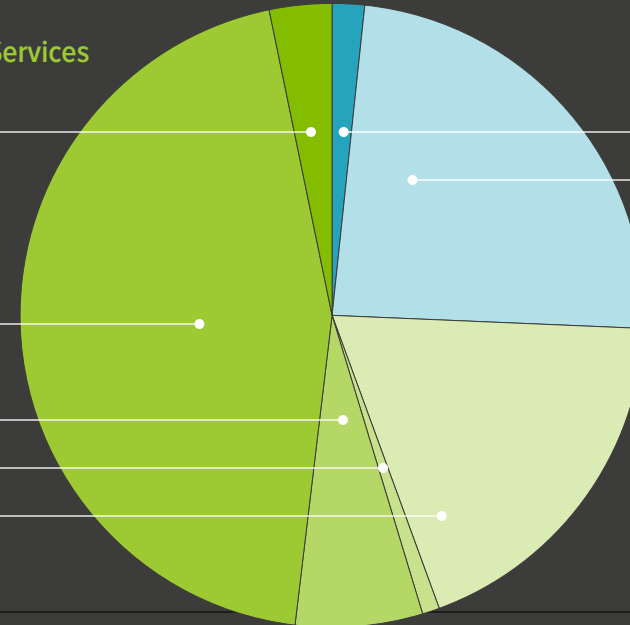
1 star accreditation 3

No accreditation 168

221 licensed by Department of Education

NAEYC accreditation 6

No accreditation 215



For most providers, licensing is required. Those who exceed the minimum licensing standards may be eligible for voluntary accreditation.

Tennessee's Star Quality Program

The Star Quality Program, administered by the Tennessee Department of Human Services, is a voluntary program for child care providers that exceed the minimum licensing requirements. Providers receive one to three stars, with three stars representing the highest quality rating. Most providers licensed by the Department of Education do not participate in the Star Quality program.

Data on the Star Quality Program are from the Tennessee Department of Human Services website at: http://tn.gov/humanserv/adfam/cc_main.html

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

NAEYC offers a voluntary accreditation program for center-based programs. (Home-based providers are not eligible.)⁵ NAEYC accreditation, based on nationwide standards, is widely considered the gold standard in child care quality. Independent studies find that NAEYC standards are higher than most state standards.^{6,7}

- Among centers that include children under 5, only 35 are NAEYC-accredited.
- Many of these centers are available only to a limited population (Early Head Start programs, for example, serve only children from low-income families).

Data on NAEYC accreditation are from the National Association for the Education of Young Children website at: <http://families.naeyc.org/find-quality-child-care>

