



January 2013

YOU SHOULD KNOW

IN THIS ISSUE

/
Child Care Crisis
Tools to Choose
Exclusive Interview



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Dear Jessica,

Many experts see the rising cost of child care combined with inconsistent standards and regulation as a double whammy for millions of parents. Here's an overview of the issue with tips on how to search for and assess quality child care options.



THE DOCKET /

> CHECK OUT OUR BETTER
HEALTH CARE
NEWSLETTER.

Five-Step Guide to Quality Providers

Safety, Cost Challenges to Child Care

Finding affordable and safe day care has become a major challenge for working parents. Recent studies show that child care now exceeds the annual median rent in almost half of all states, straining already tight budgets to the breaking point. But money means nothing if little Johnny or Judy doesn't come home safely at day's end. Serious inconsistencies in licensing, enforcement and training have created dangerous situations where thousands of kids are injured each year – some fatally – while in the care of others. [More insight here.](#)

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*Nearly 11 million children march off to
child care programs every week.*

BY THE NUMBERS /

38 States Report

Just 38 states require licensed child care providers to report fatalities to state officials. Child care centers in 12 states and home-based providers in 11 states are not required to report fatalities. There is also no federal reporting requirement.

Source: Why Aren't We Outraged? Children Dying in Child Care Across America, Child Care Aware of America

4:1

National standards recommend that there be one care provider for every four children aged 13 to 30 months.

> [LATEST NEWS FROM OUR PATIENT SAFETY BLOG](#)

> [CHILD SAFETY TIPS AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION FROM OUR CHILD PROTECTION BLOG](#)

> [MALPRACTICE A-Z: ANSWERS ON SPECIFIC TOPICS](#)

Staffing Ratio

Ratios increase as the age of the children increases.

Source: [Choosing a Child Care Center](#), American Academy of Pediatrics, [HealthyChildren.org](#)

\$972 Per Month

Costs vary by location, but parents can anticipate paying \$972 per month on average for a baby or toddler at a day care center, and \$650 per month for home day care.

Source: [Childcare Options: Pros, Cons and Cost](#), [Babycenter.com](#)

BOOKMARK FAVORITES /

Map Shows State-by-State Licensing Information

The [National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education](#) features an [interactive map](#) that shows state licensing and regulation information for child care.

Is Your Day Care Provider Accredited? Find Out

Accredited providers have met child care standards higher than most state licensing requirements. Look up providers through the [National Association for the Education of Young Children](#) or the [National Association for Family Child Care](#), two of the nation's largest accrediting organizations.

Checklist Rates Care Providers on 38 Indicators

Arm yourself with this checklist ([download](#)) when visiting potential child care providers. [Child Care Aware of America](#) has created a cross reference of 38 quality indicators based on what is important to a child's health, safety and development.



Take Action to Strengthen Child Care

Join Child Care Aware of America and *Parents* magazine in a joint campaign urging Congress to address the national crisis in child care.

[Visit now](#)



Child Care "State of the Union" Not Very Good, Says Expert

Grace Reef for Child Care Aware of America says most states are not doing a good job monitoring child care quality.

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