

WELCOME TO THE

Region 47: Ogle, Whiteside & Lee

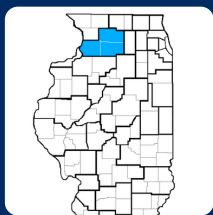
CHILD CARE TOOLKIT



In partnership with:



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WELCOME TO THE REGION 47 CHILD CARE TOOLKIT

Helping employees navigate their child care needs.

As a working parent, having access to child care resources is essential for balancing work and family life. Having support with child care resources can significantly reduce stress, prevent absenteeism, and increase job satisfaction. When organizations address the child care needs of their employees, it shows a commitment to family well-being and helps create a more positive, supportive workplace. This Toolkit was designed to help businesses in our Region better support working parents and caregivers like you!



Region 47:
Ogle, Whiteside & Lee

What is child care?

Child care refers to the care and supervision of young children by other adults when their parents or caregivers are working or busy. It supports working families by allowing parents to pursue their careers with the assurance that their children are in a safe and nurturing environment.



Why is finding quality care important for your family and you as an employee?

Quality care not only provides a structured setting for children to learn and socialize but also fosters their development. This support is vital for families striving to balance work and life effectively.



What are the different types of child care?

CHILD CARE CENTERS

These are formal facilities that provide care for a group of children, often structured by age and developmental stage. They are usually staffed by multiple caregivers and must adhere to state regulations regarding child-to-caregiver ratios, safety standards, and educational programs.

FAMILY CHILD CARE

This type of care takes place in a caregiver's home where they are licensed by the state to care for a small group of children. Providers typically care for a mix of ages and are required to meet health, safety, and training standards set by the state.

LICENSED EXEMPT CARE

This includes child care that does not require a state license but may still be regulated under certain conditions, such as care provided by relatives, babysitters, or in informal settings. These providers typically care for a limited number of children and are not subject to the same regulations as licensed providers.

What is the Child Care Resource and Referral?

4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care, is our Region's Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (CCR&R). The CCR&R's role is to support families with:

- Finding child care
- Choosing quality care
- Paying for child care

You can contact 4-C to receive resources, request a list of child care providers, and complete a Child Care Assistance Program application.

You can also explore the resources they provide in the Region 47 Child Care Toolkit.



www.four-c.org

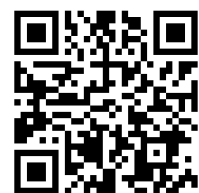


(815) 758-8149



4Creferrals@four-c.org

Need help paying for child care?
Visit: www.getchildcareil.org



Illinois Cares for Kids

The Illinois Cares for Kids website is also a helpful tool for finding child care providers.

www.illinoiscaresforkids.org



Navigating child care and Early Childhood resources in our Region

Learn more about the Early Childhood Resource Hub, O.W.L. Early Childhood, for Ogle, Whiteside, and Lee Counties. Here you can find resources related to Early Childhood Education, child development, and other family supports!

O.W.L. Early Childhood Resource Hub

Find the “Who’s Whooo” for your Early Childhood resource needs in Ogle, Whiteside, and Lee Counties!



Learn more:
bit.ly/m/owlearlychildhood

Early Childhood Education in Region 47

In addition to child care, our Region has many Early Childhood Education programs and resources. With benefits similar to quality child care, Early Childhood Education helps set the stage for future success in school and life. It lays the foundation for your child’s cognitive, emotional, and social development. Learn more about these programs on the O.W.L. page; your family may be able to wrap these programs into your child care plans.

Struggling to find child care?

Unfortunately, child care can be limited in our counties, and we know finding the right provider for your family may take time. Read the tips below for ideas on how to support your family while in transition to finding care.

- **Place Your Family on Waitlists:** Even if the list is long, put your family on the list. Family circumstances change and that list may go more quickly than you think!
- **Look into Early Childhood Education Programs:** Even though these programs are often part-time, they benefit young children, and you may be able to find wraparound child care options with family or friends.
- **Talk to Your Employer:** Discuss flexible work arrangements, schedules, or potentially working from home.



- **Network with Friends and Family:** Ask relatives, close friends, or neighbors if they can help with temporary care.
- **Explore All Types of Care:** If centers are full, learn more about local home-based Family Child Care or licensed exempt providers.
- **Check Community Resources:** Look into parent support groups, local churches, community centers, or libraries that may have connections.
- **Prepare for Emergency Plans:** Keep a list of emergency caregivers or backups in case of last-minute cancellations or unforeseen events.

Region 47 Child Care Toolkit Resource Folders

In the Toolkit Google Drive, you will find folders with handouts, videos, and additional resources that may help your family in researching and exploring child care options.

SCAN ME



bit.ly/Region47ChildCareToolkit

Finding a Child
Care Provider

Child Care
Financial
Assistance

What is the
CCR&R?

Early
Childhood
Resources

Parenting
Supports

Made Possible by Your Region's Collaborating Partners



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



To learn more about how these agencies are working to support Early Childhood Education and Care in our communities, click the logo to visit their site and connect.