2

Types of Early Childhood Programs

Key Concepts

❑ There are many types of child care programs, all of which have advantages and disadvantages.

❑ Licensing is important in the selection of child care programs.

Objectives

❑ List and describe the various types of early childhood programs available to parents and their children.

❑ Assess the advantages and disadvantages of each type of program.

continued

Objectives

❑ Explain steps families may take in choosing quality child care.

❑ List indications of quality in early childhood programs.

❑ Recognize licensing rules that help keep centers safe.

Family Child Care Homes

❑ **Family child care homes** provide child care by people other than a relative or parent
  - Often in private neighborhood homes
  - Some states require licensing
  - May attend up to 12 hours a day

Child Care Centers

- **Child care centers** are the most popular type of service
- Programs based on provider skills and state licensing requirements
  - Some offer whole child curriculum
  - Some offer **custodial care**

Montessori Schools

❑ Montessori schools focus on self-education in a prescribed sequence

❑ The **Montessori approach** stresses

- independence with little help from teachers

- practical life experiences

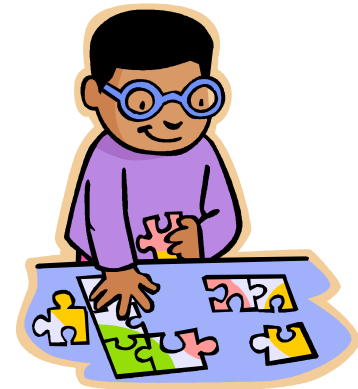- sensory training mastered before academics are introduced

Head Start

❑ The **Head Start** program was designed by the federal government in the 1960s to overcome the negative effects of poverty on young children

- Provides child care for infants, toddlers, and four- to five-year-olds from low-income families
- May be full- or part-time; in a center or home
- Provides medical and social services

continued

Head Start

❑ Education

- Curriculum is designed to build self-esteem that will lead to future success
  - Family involvement is key
  - Curiosity
  - Self-confidence
  - Self-discipline

continued

Head Start

❑ Nutrition

  ▪ One snack and one hot meal every day

❑ Health services provided

  ▪ Dental

  ▪ Medical including immunizations

  ▪ Mental health

continued

Head Start

❑ Parental involvement

  ▪ Recruiting new children

  ▪ Assisting in the center

  ▪ Taking part in policy meetings

Did You Know?

Head Start is administered under the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Two-thirds of the nearly 1,335,600 individuals who volunteer are parents.

Kindergarten

❑ Kindergarten is part of most private and public school systems

❑ Schedules include

  ▪ half-day

  ▪ full-day

  ▪ full-day/alternating day sessions

continued

Kindergarten

❑ Program goals and objectives include

- respect for the contributions, property, and rights of other children

- development of positive feelings about school

- development of positive self-concept

- growth in language, social, physical, and creative skills

continued

Kindergarten

❑ Program goals and objectives include

- achievement of problem-solving and cognitive skills

- development of independence, shown by working alone on a task or developing self-help skills

- development of interpersonal skills

- appreciation of objects of beauty

continued

Kindergarten

❑ Curriculum may vary from school to school

❑ It can include

- ▪ preacademic skills
- ▪ social development
- ▪ creative activities

School-Age Care

❑ Children from ages 5 to 10 most often attend **school-age child care programs**

- ▪ Before- and after-school care
- ▪ Sponsored by schools, religious organizations, or child care centers
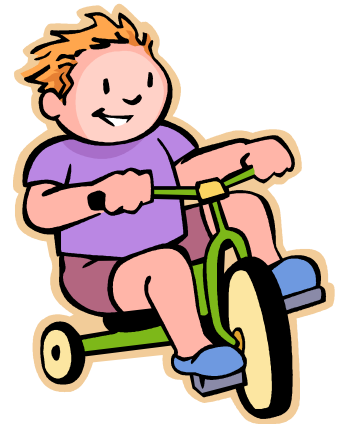- ▪ Programs supplement regular classes

continued

High School Child Care Programs

❑ High school child care programs train future child care professionals

❑ Laboratory facilities for students to work with preschoolers while supervised by a teacher

- Operate two or three days a week
- Curriculum is planned by high school students
- Students observe and work directly with children

Universal Pre-Kindergarten

❑ **Universal pre-kindergarten (UPK)** is a state-sponsored program for three- and four-year-olds

- High-quality, literary-rich environment
- Eagerness to learn in kindergarten
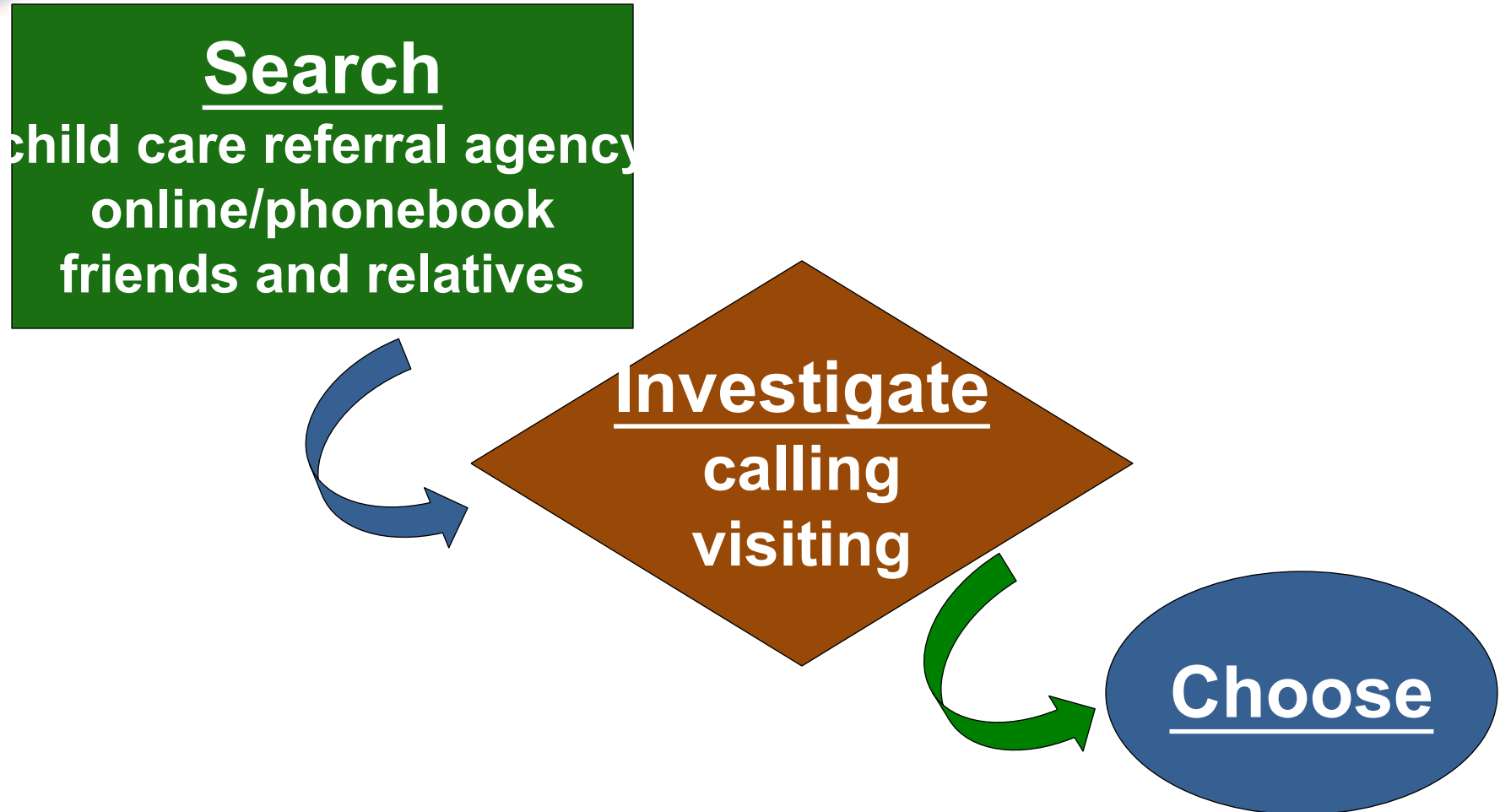- Early learning experiences for disadvantaged children

Selecting a Child Care Program

❑ Factors to consider

- Promotes children's safety and comfort
- Quality of program, cost, and location
- Promotes all areas of child development
- Staff training, experience, and turnover ratio
- Adult-child ratio and group size
- Condition of facilities

The Selection Process

Search

child care referral agency
online/phonebook
friends and relatives

Investigate
calling
visiting

Choose

Discuss

❑ *If you were selecting a child care program for your child, what are some other factors that you would consider?*

Licensing Rules and Regulations

❑ **Licensing rules and regulations**

  ▪ affect the safety and health of the children

  ▪ protect parents, employers, and employees

❑ A **child care license** is a state-provided certificate granting permission to operate

  ▪ a child care center

  ▪ family child care home

Brainstorm

❑ *What are some advantages and disadvantages of these child care programs?*

	Curriculum		Fees		Schedule	
	A	D	A	D	A	D
Family child care homes						
Child care centers						
Head Start						
Montessori schools						