



# Chapter 2

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## Types of Early Childhood Programs

I. How Programs Vary:

B. Philosophies

C. Ownership

D. Program offerings

E. Size

F. Staff qualifications

G. Hours of operation

H. Facilities

I. Fees

J. Quality





## II. Family Child Care – child care provided in a private home

### A. Characteristics

1. Most common type in the U.S.
2. License may be required by the state, but is difficult to enforce



## B. Program

1. Custodial care – focus on meeting child’s physical needs

- emphasis on a safe and healthy environment

- Meals are usually provided

2. May involve a developmental curriculum and equipment if caregiver has received early childhood training.

Ex – puzzles, storybooks, push and pull toys, large blocks, housekeeping equipment





### III. Child Care Centers – facilities that offer full-day children’s programs

#### A. Characteristics

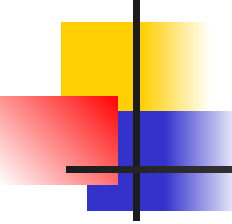
1. Focus on care (nutrition, health, and safety needs) and education (social, emotional, cognitive, and physical needs)
2. Open early in the morning and remain open until 6 or 7 o’clock in the evening
3. May offer 24 hour a day care

#### B. Program

1. May be custodial care or focus on development in all areas

IV. Montessori Schools – developed in the early 1900's in Italy by Maria Montessori stressing nutrition, cleanliness, manners, and sensory training





A. Montessori Approach – primary goal is for children to “learn how to learn”

1. Children learn best while being active using equipment that Montessori designed to be used in a prescribed sequence

2. Equipment is self-correcting and requires very little adult guidance

3. Independence is stressed with teachers providing little help as children learn to care for themselves

4. Practical life experiences – children learn to button, zip, tie, and put on coats and boots

5. Sensory training – activities designed to help children learn touch, sound, taste and sight discrimination.

Ex – matching blocks with the same sandpaper texture

- matching bells with the same tone

6. Academics are stressed after sensory training has been mastered

V. Head Start – program developed by the federal government in the 1960's in order to overcome the negative effects of poverty on young children



A. Education

1. Goal is to build self-esteem that will lead to future success in school so staff encourages self-confidence, curiosity, and self-discipline
2. A variety of learning experiences are designed to meet all 4 areas of development
3. Emphasizes parental involvement



## B. Nutrition

1. Federal rules require at least one snack and one hot meal every day
2. The nutrition program serves food that reflects the child's ethnic and cultural preferences as a way to help children learn to make healthy food choices and develop good eating habits

## C. Health

1. Every child is given a total health plan that includes dental, medical, and mental health services
2. Immunizations are provided



VI. Kindergarten – first program was developed in 1837 in Germany and stressed play as a means of self-development

A. Schedules – half-day, full-day, or full-day/alternating-day sessions

## A. Goals:

1. Respect for the contributions, property, and rights of other children
2. Development of positive feelings about school
3. Development of a positive self-concept
4. Growth in language, social, physical, and creative skills
5. Achievement of problem-solving and cognitive skills
6. Development of independence
7. Development of interpersonal skills
8. Appreciation of objects of beauty



## C. Curriculum – depends on the program:

1. Preacademic skills

2. Social development





VII. School-Age Child Care – provide care for children before and/or after school

A. Offered by schools, houses of worship, and child-care centers

1. Do homework and play games as well as other activities

2. Most often used by children 5 to 10

B. Checking-in services – workers call the home to check whether the child has arrived safely

VIII. Parent cooperatives – formed and run by parents who wish to take part in child's preschool experience

A. Functions of members:

1. Hire teachers
  2. Prepare budgets
  3. Set program policies  
and goals
1. Assist in the  
classroom



## B. Advantages

1. Since parents take care of administrative responsibilities, teacher can devote more time to children and the curriculum
2. Relationships that develop between parents and teachers

## C. Disadvantages

1. Lack of control by teacher
2. Differences of opinion between parents and teachers

D. Sessions – 2 or 3 hours, 2 to 5 days a week

E. Fees – usually less than other types of programs due to hiring only 1 lead teacher with the parents taking turns as classroom aides



IX. Laboratory Schools or Campus Schools – located on a postsecondary or college campus and are staffed by college students training to be future teachers under the supervision of a professor or teacher





X. High School Child Care Programs – are staffed by high school students training to be future child care professionals under the supervision of a teacher

## XI. Sponsorship of Early Childhood Centers

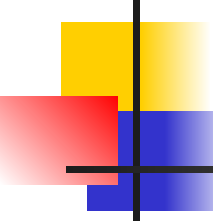
A. Public sponsored programs – funded by federal, state, or local government or other social service agency

Ex – Head Start

1. Expenses may be funded by grants, United Way, community donations, or tuition

B. Private Sponsorship – privately owned center that rely on parent fees to cover operating expenses

Ex – House of worship, hospital, or charitable organization, national child care chains



C. Employer sponsorship – employer pays part or all of the cost of child care

1. On-site child care – child travels to work with parent

2. Off-site child care – several companies may form a group together

3. Vendor model – companies purchase space in a child care center or several centers

4. Voucher method – parents receive a voucher or coupon worth a certain amount of money from the company to pay for all or part of child care

5. Child care for ill children – a center for students too ill to go to school or a nurse sent to the child's home to care for the sick child

6. Referral service – matches the parents' needs to local child care centers

## XII. Selecting a Child Care Program

### A. What Parents Look For:

#### 1. A center that is safe and comfortable

Ex – security measures, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, evacuation plans

#### 2. A center that promotes all areas of the child's development

#### 3. Cost

#### 4. Location

#### 5. A quality program

#### 6. Training and experience of staff

#### 7. Staff turnover rates

#### 8. A center that is clean and in good repair





## B. The Selection Process:

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1. Identify options – referral agency, telephone book, people they know
2. Call available programs – hours of operation, fees, location, program, staff, activities
3. Visit the site during program hours – see schedule, observe staff with children
4. Additional questions and bring child for a second visit



- C. Center Accreditation – a self-study that certifies that a center has met a voluntary set of standards set by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs, a division of NAEYC
1. Purpose is to improve the quality of programs for young children in group care
  2. Is the best indicator of a high quality child care center