



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for contacting the Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region (ELC) for Child Care Resource and Referral services. We serve Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, and Wakulla counties. Our hours of operation in the **Leon** office are Monday through Thursday from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. You can find the addresses and hours of operation for our rural offices on our [website](#).

Choosing a quality child care program that meets the needs of your child and family is an important decision. We can provide information and resources that will better help you make that choice.

We have enclosed the child care listings you requested as well as additional information that may help you in your search for a quality child care provider. Please know that these listings are free and computer-generated based upon the criteria you selected. The ELC **does not** license, endorse or recommend any particular provider. Only you can best determine the program that is right for you and your child based upon your family's and your child's unique needs.

Here are some additional resources that may be helpful to you in your search for child care:

- Department of Children and Families, Child Care Program Office, telephone 850-488-4900
 - For information on choosing child care, child-to-staff ratios, licensing requirements, background screening, and more, click [here](#).
 - To research child care providers, including contact information, services, and inspection reports, click [here](#).
 - For information on how to report known or suspected child abuse, neglect, or abandonment, contact 1-800-962-2873 or click [here](#).
- Children's Medical Services, Early Steps Program, telephone 1-800-218-0001
 - For information on child development and milestones, click [here](#).
- Department of Education, Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System, telephone 386-312-2265
 - For information on specialist services for children with special needs, click [here](#).

If you need additional child care listings or community resources or would like more information about the Voluntary Prekindergarten or School Readiness programs, please contact us at 850-385-0504 or toll-free at 1-866-973-9030. You can also visit our website at www.elcbigbend.org.

Sincerely,

Child Care Resource and Referral

Note: You can access an electronic version of this letter with active hyperlinks on our website under the *Parents>Resources* tab.