



**GSA Public Buildings Service**



gsa child care

# Quality child care is key.



The Office of Child Care is part of the General Services Administration's national commitment to make quality child care a key building amenity and an essential component of a quality work environment. The Office of Child Care, within the Public Buildings Service, oversees the program ensuring that working families using child care in centers located in GSA-managed space receive high quality care for their children.

GSA works in partnership with federal agencies and boards of directors to select high quality child care providers. We strive to take advantage of the best available child care resources within each local community. Overall program guidance and standards are prioritized in formal licensing agreements.

**“Childhood is a place as well as a time.”**

*May Sarton, Poet*

Title 40 of the United States Code, Section 590, (formerly 490b) gives federal agencies the authority to establish child care centers for federal families without charge for rent or services to the child care provider. The Code, known as the Tribble Amendment, requires that at least 50% of the children enrolled in a center be children or dependents of federal employees. The remaining enrollment may be open to the community.

## Managed By the Best in National and Local Providers

GSA oversees a network of private, market-based child care providers. This network, which consists of both for-profit and not-for-profit companies, includes nationally recognized providers as well as small independent organizations.

## Providing Quality Accredited Care

All centers operating in GSA-managed space are required to achieve accreditation from the Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation, a division of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Health, safety, staff qualifications, physical environment and administration are all reviewed during accreditation.

## Reflecting Diverse Local Needs

Each federal community establishes priorities for its center within the quality guidelines set by GSA. As a result, GSA's child care program serves a diverse geographic and demographic group of federal families.

## Offering Market-driven Fee-based Care

Cost of care in GSA Child Care Centers is determined locally. Tuition rates vary according to geographical location, services offered, number of operating hours, size of center, and other criteria. Parent fees are assessed to cover the cost of daily operations. Federal agencies are authorized to help defray the costs of child care for their lower income employees.

## Providing Quality Facilities for Our Customers

We provide space and services for more than 110 child care centers in 31 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. We consider safety a key to planning, designing, locating and operating our child care centers. All staff undergoes criminal history background checks in accordance with the Crime Control Act of 1990. All new centers and renovations reflect state-of-the-art child care designs and are built to promote child oriented, developmentally appropriate, efficient and effective environments in accordance with the GSA Child Care Center Design Guide.

## Serving Federal Employee Families Nationwide

Our child care team provides: resources and training, publications and guides, consultation and technical assistance.

To learn more about GSA's Office of Child Care and the services we provide, please visit our website at [www.gsa.gov/childcare](http://www.gsa.gov/childcare).



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Office of Child Care

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Public Buildings Service  
U.S. General Services Administration  
1800 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20405  
**[www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov)**