

# Licensed Early Childhood Provider List

Provider	Email	Phone	Ages Accepted	CCAP Accepted
<b>Gunnison Center Providers</b>				
Gunnison RE-JI Preschool (Lake School)	<a href="mailto:jkennedy@gunnisonschools.net">jkennedy@gunnisonschools.net</a>	641-7770	3-6 yrs	Yes
Season's School House	<a href="mailto:Seasons81230@gmail.com">Seasons81230@gmail.com</a>	641-4511	2 ½-6 yrs	Yes
Tenderfoot	<a href="mailto:tfootdirector@gmail.com">tfootdirector@gmail.com</a>	642-1949	12 wks-6yrs	Yes
<b>Gunnison Family Home Care Providers</b>				
Amanda Birdsong – Songbird School House	<a href="mailto:songbirdschoollhouse@gmail.com">songbirdschoollhouse@gmail.com</a>	641-1405	1-8 yrs	
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Susan Johnson – Watch Me Grow	<a href="mailto:Rsjohnson81@hotmail.com">Rsjohnson81@hotmail.com</a>	641-0232	2 wks-12yrs	
Shelia Russell – Creative Corner	<a href="mailto:srrussell1952@gmail.com">srrussell1952@gmail.com</a>	641-1715	3mo-5 yrs	
Cynthia Summer	<a href="mailto:mountain_angel_41@hotmail.com">mountain_angel_41@hotmail.com</a>	641-1367		
Julie Townsley	<a href="mailto:The4jtown@msn.com">The4jtown@msn.com</a>	641-2925	Birth-13 yrs	
<b>Crested Butte Center Providers</b>				
Little Red Schoolhouse	<a href="mailto:lilredschoolhouse1@gmail.com">lilredschoolhouse1@gmail.com</a>	349-0996	3mo-6 yrs	Yes
Paradise Place	<a href="mailto:paradiseplaceschool@gmail.com">paradiseplaceschool@gmail.com</a>	349-2149	12mo-8 yrs	Yes
Stepping Stones	<a href="mailto:steppingstonescb@gmail.com">steppingstonescb@gmail.com</a>	349-5288	4 mo –7 yrs	Yes
<b>Lake City Center Providers</b>				
Hinsdale County School District RE-1 (Community School)	<a href="mailto:caitlinr@lakecityschool.org">caitlinr@lakecityschool.org</a>	944-2314	3-5 yrs	
Wee Care	<a href="mailto:Weecare4kids@gmail.com">Weecare4kids@gmail.com</a>	944-0106	1-8 yrs	Yes

*The mission of the Gunnison-Hinsdale Early Childhood Council is to expand and improve quality early childhood services and education opportunities for families in Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties.*

*Our vision is to ensure the healthy growth and optimal development of all young children so that each child is ready to succeed in school and life.*

The Gunnison-Hinsdale Early Childhood Council collaborates locally and statewide in the domains of Early Learning, Social Emotional & Mental Health, Family Support & Parent Education and Health. Membership is free and meetings are open to the public. For information on meetings please contact Margaret Wacker at 970-641-7931 or email [mwacker@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:mwacker@gunnisoncounty.org)



# What to Look for When Choosing a Provider

## Adapted from ZeroToThree.org

“All Children ... need the opportunity to form the kind of comfortable, secure relationship with a caregiver that will nurture their healthy emotional development.”

### What to Look for in a Child Care Program:

Because the way children are treated by caregiving adults *shapes their development* in important ways, it is crucial to find a child care professional who both *understands and nurtures children's learning through the everyday moments they share*. Responding to children, even when they are too young to understand the meaning of our words, lets them know that their feelings and experiences are *important and respected*. **If at all possible, before making your program choice, observe caregivers interacting with children during the day.** Parents can learn a lot about a program simply by watching. Here are some specific criteria to look for and ask about when visiting a child care program:

- What training do staff members have in infant-toddler development?
- Do caregivers speak to the children, even babies? Do they sing and read to the children?
- Do they answer children's questions patiently? Do they ask children questions?
- Is each baby allowed to eat and sleep according to their own rhythms, and not based on a schedule imposed by the caregiver?
- For toddlers, is a daily schedule posted, using pictures and visuals, so that children can anticipate what will happen next?
- Are toys and materials well organized so that children can choose what interests them?
- Are caregivers able to accommodate the special needs of children?
- Does the environment accommodate the special needs of children?
- Does the caregiver seem to enjoy children?
- Do caregivers respect the language, culture and values of families in the program?
- How does the caregiver feel about discipline? Weaning? Toilet training? Feeding? Do the caregiver's beliefs match your own?
- Does the caregiver handle conflicts without losing patience, shaming a child, or frequently displaying anger?
- Are you welcome to drop in at any time?
- Would your child feel good about coming here? Would you feel good about leaving your child here?
- Is the environment sanitary and safe?
- Is the setting appealing with comfortable lighting and an acceptable noise level?
- Is there a primary caregiver for my child?
- Are the ratios and group size appropriate for my child's age?

“A good caregiver is: Loving and Responsive, Respects the baby's individuality, & Provides a stimulating and child-friendly environment”