

Licensed Early Childhood Provider List

Provider	Email	Phone	Ages Accepted	CCAP Accepted
Gunnison Center Providers				
Gunnison RE-JI Preschool (Lake School)	jkennedy@gunnisonschools.net	641-7770	3-6 yrs	Yes
Wonderland Nature School	admin@wonderlandnatureschool.org	641-4511	2 ½-6 yrs	Yes
Tenderfoot	tfootadmindirector@pcrs.net	642-1949	12 wks-6yrs	Yes
Gunnison Family Home Care Providers				
Amanda Birdsong – Songbird School House	songbirdschoolhouse@gmail.com	641-1405	1-8 yrs	
Susan Johnson – Watch Me Grow	Rsjohnson81@hotmail.com	641-0232	2 wks-12yrs	
Shelia Russell – Creative Corner	srrussell1952@gmail.com	641-1715	3mo-5 yrs	
Cynthia Summer	mountain_angel_41@hotmail.com	641-1367		
Julie Townsley	The4jtown@msn.com	641-2925	Birth-13 yrs	Yes
Lisa Rygler	lisarygler@gmail.com	209-6249	Birth – 6 yrs	
Crested Butte Center Providers				
Little Red Schoolhouse	lilredschoollhouse1@gmail.com	349-0996	3mo-6 yrs	Yes
Paradise Place	paradiseplaceschool@gmail.com	349-2149	12mo-8 yrs	Yes
Stepping Stones	steppingstonescb@gmail.com	349-5288	4 mo –7 yrs	Yes
Lake City Center Providers				
Hinsdale County School District RE-1 (Community School)	leslien@lakecityschool.org	944-2314		
Wee Care	Weecare4kids@gmail.com	944-0106	6mo-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



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”