

# Valley Oak Children's Services

## Choosing Child Care—5 Steps to Finding Care

# 1

### Be Informed

- Contact your local Resource and Referral agency. ([www.rnetwork.org](http://www.rnetwork.org) under family service)
- Contact your regional state CCL office which licenses child care (for compliant information).
- Ask relatives, friends, and neighbors.
- Check the newspaper and community bulletin boards.
- **Oliver's Law:** as a parent, you have the right to get information about any substantiated or inconclusive complaints about a child care provider that you select for you child. That information is public and you can get it by calling the local licensing office.  
**Community Care Licensing at 1-844-538-8267**



# 2

### Look

- Is the facility safe, comfortable, and clean?
- Is there a quiet place for naps?
- Is the provider responsive to child's needs?
- Are there a variety of toys to play with?
- Is there a sanitary diaper changing area?
- Is the kitchen clean and sanitary?
- How do the children interact with each other?



# 3

### Count

- Are there the correct number of adults per child?
- How many infants are in care?
- Are you comfortable with the adult:child ratio?

Set up an interview with the potential provider.

At the interview: **Look**, **Count**, **Ask**, and **Listen**

# 4

### Ask

- What is your experience and/or education in child care and child development?
- What is your discipline philosophy?
- What kinds of things do you do to help a new child transition into care?
- What do you do when a child cries?
- How would you react if you saw my child bite another?
- How long have you been doing child care?
- Can I visit my child whenever I want?
- What is your plan for an emergency?
- What do you charge and what does that include?
- Do you have a contract?



# 5

### Listen

- To the answers that are given (take notes).
- To the noise level of the room.
- For joyful noise from the children.
- For a respectful attitude towards the kids.
- To the feelings you have.
- To any concerns you might have.
- To any concerns your child might have.



Contact **Valley Oak Children's Services** for more information  
3120 Cohasset Road Suite 6 Chico, CA 95973 (530) 895-3572 Outside Chico area 1-800-345-VOCS  
[www.valleyoakchildren.org](http://www.valleyoakchildren.org)

