

Resource: Finding a Location

Before you start the search for a location for your child care business, take the time to complete the [needs assessment](#). This information can help you think about the best location for your child care business. Starting a business is a big investment, and you want to make sure there is a need for a child care center in your area before you search for a location.

Once the need has been established, contact your local [Child Care Resource & Referral \(CCR&R\)](#) agency for help in determining the best location for your child care business. If you are considering building, purchasing, or renting a space for your child care business, think about establishing your business in an area where families live or along their route to work. You may also want to contact a local realtor that can help you locate properties that would be suitable for a child care center business.

Check local zoning laws and restrictive covenants to make sure you are able to open a child care business before you build, purchase, or rent a building. Some states may also require the child care to have a business license. If you need help with finding this information, contact your local [Child Care Resource and Referral \(CCR&R\) agency](#).

	Yes	No
I have completed the needs assessment and identified the best location for my child care business based on the most recent data available to me.		
I checked with my state licensing office and ask about any building requirements for child care centers.		
I checked local zoning laws to make sure I can open a business in this area.		
I checked neighborhood covenants to make sure I can open a business in this area. (This will apply if you are planning on opening a child care center in a residential area.)		
I checked with my state licensing office or my local Child Care Resource and Referral agency to see if I need a business license to operate a child care center in my area.		
If I am renting a space, I checked with the lease agreement to make sure that I can operate a child care business in the rental property.		

If you have not checked **“yes”** to the above questions, please take the time to find out the state licensing requirements for child care centers, zoning laws, and restrictive covenants before you go any further.