

COURSE: 7065	Parenting and Child Development			UNIT: A	Parenting Perspectives
ESSENTIAL STANDARD:	2.00	B4	14%	Understand child care issues.	
OBJECTIVE:	2.01	B2	4%	Understand factors to consider when selecting child care programs.	

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- What types of child care are available and what are their characteristics?
- What factors need to be considered when choosing a child care program?

UNPACKED CONTENT

The basic types of child care programs will cover ages 0-5 years.

General types of child care providers/facilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Nanny or au pair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Care for child at home is convenient ▪ Realizable and stable care at almost any time of day ▪ Stays in own home environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children do not have a chance to play with other children ▪ More expensive
Private home-based care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More individualized attention ▪ Children to play with ▪ Homelike environment ▪ May be less expensive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No certification or inspection process ▪ Transport child to and from
Center-based care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides physical, intellectual, emotional and social development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vary in types of activities, equipment, and play areas provided ▪ Less individual attention ▪ Greater exposure to illness

Specific types of child care providers/facilities	Advantages	Disadvantages
Child care center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cares for basic needs of child ▪ Concern for child's physical care primarily 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Crowded ▪ Commercialized ▪ High child/adult ratio
Preschool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides extra stimulation and experiences ▪ Develops social skills prior to formal education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Most are half-day programs ▪ Must arrange for transportation and childcare for other half of day
Family child care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low adult-child ratios 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May be licensed but not accredited

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Specific types of child care providers (continued)	Advantages	Disadvantages		
Head Start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides meals, shots, health care, professional staff, transportation and counseling, and is government funded ▪ Strong education component ▪ Focuses on building self esteem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children may have emotional problems ▪ Children from low-income households that may have risk factors 		
Montessori	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Self-directed learning ▪ Quiet, calm, and orderly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited teacher interaction 		
University sponsored/laboratory school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low adult-child ratio ▪ Professional curriculum ▪ Student interns are trained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited enrollment ▪ Children are observed and behaviors studied by student interns 		
Employer sponsored child care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parent takes fewer sick days ▪ Promotes family cohesiveness ▪ Provides sick child care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child has long day as parent works their shift 		
Smart Start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensures that young children enter school healthy and ready to succeed ▪ Helps fund child care ▪ Works to improve quality of child care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited funding 		
Nanny	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides multiple services in home to child and family ▪ Demand for services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Higher cost 		
Au pair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demand for services ▪ Provides multiple services in home to child and family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Higher cost 		
Stay-at-home parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child is in familiar surrounding ▪ Stability of single-care giver over time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Less income with one parent working 		

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UNPACKED CONTENT

Factors that influence selection of child care sites

- Cost of child care
- Location of facility
- Equipment and supplies
- Discipline methods used
- Program activities of child care center
- Hours of operation
- Adult-child ratios
- Personal qualities of the caregivers
- Cleanliness of child care center
- Training and education of staff
- Nutrition program
- Transportation provided
- Health Department rating
- Star rating