



## Child Development Programs

*Family Policy/Children and Youth*

Current as of July 9, 2013

### Background

The Department of Defense is committed to providing military families with access to quality, affordable child care programs to meet the demands of increased deployments and high operational tempo. The DoD considers care for young children of military members to be a workforce issue with a direct impact on the effectiveness and readiness of the force. In response to this need, child development centers and school-age care programs are available at more than 300 locations worldwide to provide child care to more than 200,000 children from birth to 12 years of age of military personnel on a daily basis. Child care programs offer full-day, part-day and hourly child care; part-day preschools; before- and after-school programs for school-age children; and extended-hour care that includes nights and weekends for shift workers.

### Program Highlights

- Child development centers provide child care for children 6 weeks to 12 years of age.
- Family child care programs offer in-home care (birth to 12 years old) by certified providers living in government-owned or leased housing, or in state-licensed homes in the community.
- School-age care programs provide child care for children (6 to 12 years old) before and after school, during school holidays and during summer vacations.
- Resource and referral programs connect families to quality child care programs at most military installations and in local communities.
- Respite care offers short-term, intermittent child care for children and youth from birth to 12 years of age allowing temporary relief for the parents responsible for care.
- Operation Military Child Care, a program available through Child Care Aware of America, subsidizes the cost of child care for reserve component families and geographically dispersed active duty military families while the service member is deployed.

### Eligibility

All active duty members, DoD civilians and activated National Guard and reserve members are eligible.

### Program Availability

Child development programs are available worldwide on military installations and in community-based partner facilities.

### Additional Information

- MilitaryINSTALLATIONS directory at [www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil](http://www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil)
- Military OneSource at [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil) or 800-342-9647
- Operation Military Child Care at [www.childcareaware.org](http://www.childcareaware.org)