

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR CHILD CARE HEALTH CONSULTANT

In Colorado, your Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) should be a licensed registered nurse with knowledge in pediatrics, a pediatric nurse practitioner, a family nurse practitioner or a physician with knowledge of pediatrics and developmentally appropriate practices for child care settings.

How to Find your Child Care Health Consultant

You can find qualified CCHCs by contacting your local health agency, local health clinic, pediatric hospital, or private health providers. Contact your local resource and referral office for health professionals providing child care health consultation in your area.

Choosing your CCHC

You should carefully interview qualified health care professionals to find the best child care health consultant. Your CCHC will become a part of your child care team. Be prepared to sign a contract that describes all the services to be provided. For more information, you can view the Qualistar website, <http://www.qualistar.org>, for a brochure about choosing your child care health consultant.

Your CCHC should have:

- Knowledge of, and respect for, the child care industry and child care providers.
- Knowledge of pediatric health care and child development
- Knowledge of community, state and national resources.
- Knowledge of local and state child care regulations.
- Supportive attitude in working with culturally diverse populations.

A Partner

Your CCHC should assist you in a variety of areas in your child care center. Look for a consultant who is willing to partner with you and your staff to:

- Review health, safety and nutrition practices
- Assist in development and implementation of written health policies.
- Conduct health and safety trainings.
- Provide on-site classroom consultation.
- Share and link children, families and child care providers with community health and mental health resources.
- Provide communicable disease and immunization information
- Support and train child care providers who care for children with special health care needs.
- Develop health care plans for children with special health care needs.
- Delegate and supervise medication administration and special health procedures to child care providers.
- Provide nutrition and feeding information.
- Support physical activity guidelines
- Discuss health concerns with staff and families

Working closely with your CCHC may decrease staff turnover and improve the overall health and safety of the children in your care. Let parents know your child care team includes a qualified Child Care Health Consultant.