Child Development Programs

Family Policy/Children and Youth

# Background

The Department of Defense recognizes the importance of providing families with access to quality, affordable child care programs and is strongly committed to meeting the increased demand due to high deployments and operation tempo. Child care is a workforce issue that directly impacts the efficiency, readiness and retention of the total force. Child development programs at more than 300 locations worldwide provide childcare to the approximately 900,000 children, ages 0 to 12 years old, of military personnel who may need these services. The DoD currently serves more than 200,000 children, ages 6 weeks to 12 years, daily in full-day care, part-day care, hourly care, part-day preschools, and before and after-school programs for school-age children. More than 50 percent of all of the care provided is for infants and toddlers. The program also provides care during nights and weekends.

# Program highlights

* **Child Development Center program:** The CDC program provides care to children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. More than 50 percent of the program’s care capacity is provided to children under the age of 3 years.
* **School-Age Care program:** The SAC program currently provides care to children, kindergarten to 12 years of age, before and after school, and during holidays and summer vacations. School-age care is considered a component of the child development program system of care.
* **Family Child Care/Child Development Home Program:** Family child care and child development home care is provided in the home by certified providers living in government-owned or leased housing. Care may also be provided in affiliated homes, which are located off the installation and agree to abide by DoD standards for operation. There are more than 4,500 licensed and trained family child care and child development home providers. Families rely on family child care to provide flexible child care to include night, weekend, and unusual hourly care, such as shift work.

# Eligibility

All active duty members, DoD civilians, and activated or deployed National Guard and reserve members.

# Program availability

Child development programs are available worldwide on military installations and in the community.

# For more information

* MilitaryINSTALLATIONS: <http://www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil>
* Military OneSource: <http://www.militaryonesource.com> or 800-342-9647