



You recently indicated on your child's Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten application that you would like to receive additional information about the other early learning programs and services that are available.

Since its founding in 1966, Episcopal Children's Services has grown from one center serving a small handful of children to one of Florida's largest child development and school readiness organizations. As the largest not-for-profit child care agency in Northeast Florida, ECS operates programs in Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Bradford, Baker, Union, Putnam and Nassau counties. The agency helps parents find quality care for their children, sponsors school readiness programs and assists childcare providers in obtaining licenses and staff training for their employees. In addition, ECS works with employers to offer affordable childcare options to their employees.

**Child Care Resource and Referral:** ECS, as a subcontractor of the Early Learning Coalition of North Florida serving Clay, Nassau, Baker, Bradford, Putnam, and St Johns Counties, helps families locate the best care for their children through Child Care Resource and Referral, a free service to the community funded by the Florida Office of Early Learning. Child Care Resource and Referral is dedicated to helping families locate a provider that meets each family's needs. For example, you may want a family child care home that will take both an infant and a 3 year old, gives sibling discounts and is within 5 miles of your job. We can give you a listing of referrals that meet those needs. Price is often a factor parents ask us to look for when requesting referrals. Please do remember that these are referrals not recommendations so you really need to visit the child care providers yourself to see what you think. However, we do provide checklists that can even make this easier to do. You can rest assured that you will be provided the most up-to-date, accurate information about child care available. With so many choices, we will refer you to a variety of programs and give you tips to help you decide which one best suits your child. Call us at 800-238-3463.

**School Readiness Services:** School Readiness Services, also known as subsidized child care is available in Putnam, St. Johns, Clay, Nassau, Baker & Bradford Counties through Episcopal Children's Services. However, families must qualify and there is often a wait list, so it is important you contact Episcopal as soon as possible to be added to our list. To contact us, you can call our offices at (904)726-1500 or (800) 238-3463 and choose the county where you live. We can often help you with just a phone call, but if you would like to come in, we have offices in all of the counties we serve and accept walk-ins and appointments. Please call to find the location nearest you.

**Other Resources:** ECS can also refer you to other social services such as programs that assist families with children with Special Needs, Head Start – a federally funded educational program for young children from low-income families, Florida KidCare – free or low cost child health insurance, and many others.

**Call us today at 800-238-3463.**