

The Edmond Sun

Rainbow Fleet provides resources for summer child care

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OKLAHOMA CITY — While children across Oklahoma are eagerly awaiting the start of summer vacation, many parents are seeking quality care for their kids during the summer months. Rainbow Fleet, a nonprofit child care resource and referral agency, can help parents locate child care options and also provide tools to find the right fit for their child.

Carrie Williams, the agency's executive director, said finding the right child care environment is an important decision, and Rainbow Fleet has the resources to help.

"We operate a statewide service designed to help parents locate quality child care options and resources in their area," Williams said. "The resource and referral line is staffed by specialists who can talk with parents about the child care programs, care centers and resources available to them."

The statewide, toll-free resource and referral telephone number is 1-800-438-0008. The service is offered at no cost to callers.

Williams also provided the following tips for evaluating a potential provider:

- Tour the facility and look for cleanliness and organization of the environment, including the playground.
- Watch the interaction between providers and the children in their care.
- Ask about the daily routine, including structured learning time and free play.
- Ask about the provider's qualifications, including experience and training.
- Visit multiple providers before making a decision.
- Confirm that the provider is properly licensed by the state.
- Review the provider's licensing file at the Department of Human Services Child Care Licensing Office.

"Whether a parent needs child care for school-age children during the summer or daily care for an infant or toddler, our resource and referral line is available to assist," Williams said.

For more than 40 years, Rainbow Fleet has provided innovative child development programs to families and child care service providers. Rainbow Fleet helps families locate quality child care options and assists child care providers with a multitude of services including licensing and technical assistance as well as age-appropriate activities and curriculum.

For more information, visit Rainbow Fleet online at rainbowfleet.org.