# Early Learning Answers on the Go 31e. - English Version

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| **31e. Becoming a legally operating child care provider.** |
| Are you thinking about becoming a child care provider? The Division of Early Learning partners with 30 early learning coalitions and the Redlands Christian Migrant Association to assist you with making this business decision.  You may contact your local Early Learning Coalition’s Child Care Resource and Referral number or the Division’s toll-free number at one-eight-six-six, three-five-seven, three-two-three-nine.  CCR&R provides information about starting a family child care home or child care center in your community. They offer a provider start-up packet that contains a wealth of information and resources for providers including professional learning opportunities offered at the local, state, and national level.  For example, your local CCR&R can alert you to areas in your county that need more child care options and connect you with your local county zoning department to learn about zoning requirements for a child care business. If you rent or own a home and are thinking about opening a family child care home, you will need to find out if your home owners association permits the operation of a business within your neighborhood.  **Florida’s Department of Children and Families, or D-C-F,** offers a wealth of information and publications on state-mandated trainings, educational exemptions, staff requirements and credentials, background screenings, and startup information for family child care homes and centers. This information includes building and structure codes and how to establish a business plan, budget, build capacity and more. For questions, call DCF’s toll free number at one-eight-eight-eight, three-five-two, two-eight-four-two.  **Additionally, DCF or your local Child Care Licensing Authority** regulates child care in your county. You may also contact them to learn more about local rules and regulations for child care licenses, registrations, and health and safety for opening and operating a child care center or family child care home.  The **Division of Early Learning** administers Florida’s Child Care Resource and Referral, Voluntary Prekindergarten Education, School Readiness, and the Gold Seal Quality Care Program that recognizes providers who achieve licensing standards that are above the minimum licensing requirements. To learn more, contact the **Division of Early Learning at one-eight-six-six, three-five-seven, three-two-three-nine and website www.floridaearlylearning.com.**  There are also notable national child care organizations that offer a wealth of early learning and professional learning information.  The project described was supported by the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative (PDG B-5) Award Number 90TP0068-03-02 from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. |