



CHILD CARE/PRESCHOOL INFORMATION

The definition of a Child Care Center, also known as a Day Care Center, is any group daycare program, including day nurseries, nursery schools, preschools, playgroups and afterschool groups. This type of business requires a use permit from the Planning Division, a City business license, and a California state license from the Community Care Licensing Division of the Department of Social Services. **Preschools and family day care homes that serve 14 or fewer children are subject to different requirements.**

A Child Care Center is a **permitted** use in the following zoning districts:

- PC (Planned Community) – upon approval of a master plan for the entire site
- PCF (Public and Community Facilities) – when operating from a public school facility
- PCF/R1-10 – when operating from a public school facility

A Child Care Center is a **conditional use** in the following zoning districts:

- CD (Downtown Commercial)
- CD/R3 (Commercial Downtown/Multiple Family)
- CN (Commercial Neighborhood)
- CRS (Commercial Retail Sales)*
- CT (Commercial Thoroughfare)
- PCF (Public and Community Facilities) – when not operating from a public school facility
- PCF/R1-10 – when not operating from a public school facility

** Except when located in a ground floor space that fronts directly on Main Street or State Street.*

A conditional use requires a use permit that is reviewed and approved by the Planning and Transportation Commission and City Council. The Planning and Transportation Commission meeting is a public hearing and neighboring property owners within a 500-foot radius are notified of the meeting and invited to attend and provide comments. However, when the use permit is for an existing facility within a commercial district, only Planning and Transportation Commission approval is required.

One (1) off-street parking space is required for every two (2) employees. Additional parking and/or pick-up and drop-off area may be required by the Planning and Transportation Commission and/or City Council if necessary.

Instructions for filing a use permit application may be obtained from the Planning Division. To determine the zoning of a property, you can contact the Planning Division at (650) 947-2750 or go online to view current zoning maps at <http://LosAltosCA.gov/commdev/planning>. To get information on how to obtain a City business license, contact the Finance Department at (650) 947-2760.

For more information on obtaining a California state license for family day care homes and child care centers, call Community Care Licensing at (408) 324-2148 or online at <http://www.cclld.ca.gov>.