

Specialized Child Care Services

What is Specialized Child Care?

Specialized Child Care (SCC) is part of the continuum of coordinated services offered through Children's Integrated Services (CIS) in Vermont communities. SCC offers an array of services and supports to families and children with identified specialized child care needs. Specialized Child Care also supports child care providers and CIS specialists working with families to assure that these children experience success in child care settings that meet their needs. Specialized Child Care providers have made a commitment to providing the best quality care to vulnerable children in their care. They agree to continuous professional development that targets the social emotional development of children to enhance and improve their skills in a safe and supportive environment

Specialized Child Care serves three populations:

1. Children and families with open Family Support or custody cases with the Family Services Division of the Department for Children and Families (called Protective Services Child Care);
2. Families experiencing significant stress (called Family Support Child Care); and
3. Children with special physical, medical, behavioral, or development needs (called Child with Special Health Needs Child Care).

What are the benefits of becoming a Specialized Child Care Program?

- You receive an additional 7% of the child care financial assistance payment for any child enrolled in specialized child care. This is on top of any bonus you get for participating in STARS.
- You get priority access to some trainings, including those sponsored by FSD.
- It gives you priority for specific grants
- It allows you to provide care for children and families who have open cases with the Family Services Division (FSD) of the Department for Children and Families, including children who are in foster care
- You are making a difference for vulnerable children in Vermont.

What requirements do programs need to meet to become a Specialized Child Care?

- Program has 3 or more STARS
- Program is licensed and in good standing with the Child Development Division
- Program has had an on-site visit from the CIS Child Care Coordinator to review the Part 3 Application, offer resources and supports, and learn more about your program.
- Program has completed the (BSC) Basic Specialized Child Care Training within the last five years
- All staff have completed the Family Services Division online mandated reporters training <https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1087433>

How do I start the process of becoming a Specialized Child Care Program?

Contact your local CIS Child Care Coordinator. Every region has a local CIS Child Care Coordinator responsible for managing SCC services as part of the regional CIS Team. A current contact list may be found here:

<http://dcf.vermont.gov/partners/scc>

The Child Care Coordinator is available to offer supports and additional resources to you as you need them. They can provide answers to questions, make referrals, and find resources for a variety of topics including Specialized Child Care payments, referrals to CIS, and support communications with social workers. They may also provide you with additional resources, materials, and trainings on social emotional development, teaming, strengthening families, trauma and more.

