

Family Resource Guide

Live, Learn & Play

Find Great Local Resources Here!

List of Services
for Families
and Children

Child Care
Check List:
A Guide to
Choosing
Quality
Childcare

Did you know?

80% of the brain develops
by age 3. Quality Early
Child Care Matters.



FamilyConnectionsMT.org

How to use this Guide

Message from Family Connections

At Family Connections, we want families and children to have the best start in life, learning and play. This guide was created to give families a jump-start in accessing resources, services, information and making connections that will provide support to them. In this guide, you will find resources that have valuable services or provide enriching experiences for families and children. Our partners have worked extremely hard to create a guide that was user friendly and captured the services essential to a child or family's success. Whether you are a parent, family member, friend or co-worker, we encourage you to share this guide with others to support a family or child. Though our goal was to provide as comprehensive of a guide as possible, we understand that our community may have additional resources to offer. We welcome your feedback about this guide. If you have information to improve this guide, services to add or information to share, please email us at fcinfo@familyconnectionsmt.org



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Services for Families & Children

Child Care

Statewide Child Care Referral
#1-855-406-CARE (2273)

Family Connections

202 2nd Ave S Suite 201, Great Falls 59405
761-6010 FamilyConnectionsMT.org

• Scholarships – Helping You Pay For Quality Child Care

- Scholarships for income eligible families to licensed child care.

• Referrals – Helping You Find Quality Child Care

- Free referrals and consumer education to make the best child care decisions.

• Trainings – Helping Child Care Facilities Provide Quality Child Care

- Assistance in starting and managing a child care business

Preschools & Child Care

202 2nd Ave S Suite 201, Great Falls 59405
761-6010 FamilyConnectionsMT.org

Education

Great Falls Public Schools

1100 4th St S, Great Falls 59403 268-6001
gfps.k12.mt.us

- Adult Education & Alternative Programs
- Young Parents Education Center (YPEC) – 2400 Central Ave Great Falls, MT 59401 268-6665
- GFPS Preschool - 3300 3rd Street NE, Great Falls 59404 268-6400
- Little Buddies - Free interactive play group for parents and children 2-4 years old. Meets monthly, call 268-6775 for locations.
- Home start - Free program to help transition to kindergarten for parents and children 4-5 years old. 8 week program, day and evening sessions. Call 268-6775 for schedule.
- Backpack & School Pantry Program

Opportunities Inc. - Head Start: Prenatal to 5 years

1220 3rd Ave S, Great Falls 59405 453-5415
gfoppinc.org

- Early Head Start is a free program available for low income families with infants and toddlers, ages 0-3, and pregnant women. Promotes healthy outcomes for pregnant women, and healthy family functioning.
- Head Start is a free program available to families with preschool children ages 3-5. Promotes school readiness by enhancing children's cognitive, social and emotional development.



Out of School Programs

Boys & Girls Clubs

600 1st Avenue SW, Great Falls 59404 761-1330
bgc-cc.org

- Serves youth (5-18 years) at minimal to no cost. Education, development of character and leadership, healthy lifestyles and prevention.
- After school program includes Power Hour which provides a space, time, assistance and incentives for the completion of members' school work.
 - \$20.00 per school year. Transportation available for an additional cost.

- Summer Safari program - separate fee and scholarships are available. Contact us for more information.

Community Recreation Center

801 2nd Ave N, Great Falls 59401 727-6099
greatfallsmt.net/recreation/community-recreation-center

- Parent-Tot play group, Tuesday and Thursday 10:00-11:00
- Afterschool care
- School's out Fun days
- Summer camps (all day)
- Art camps and Sports Camps ½ day
- Fitness center
- Noon ball
- Dance classes for children thru adults
- Home School P.E.

HANDS

3800 1st Ave S Room 8, Great Falls 59405
268-6932 gfps.k12.mt.us/Departments/Hands

- Hands offers before and after school child care and summer programs for children ages 5-12 years old in the Great Falls elementary schools. Hours available are 6:00am to 8:30am and 3pm-6pm Monday-Friday.

Rescue Mission

311 2nd Ave S, Great Falls 59405 761-2653
gfrm.org

- After school programs during the school year & Camp Life Light during the summer

Recreation

Big Brothers & Big Sisters

18 6th St N Suite 26, Great Falls 59401
453-5521 bbbs-gf.org

- Provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

Boy Scouts

820 17th Avenue South, Great Falls 59405
403-5675 montanabsa.org

- Making a difference through civic service, scouting provides quality youth programs that build good character while building better communities through hands-on activities.
 - Cub Scouting (7-10 year old boys)
 - Boy Scouting (11-17 year old boys)
 - Varsity Scouting (14-17 year old boys)
 - Venturing (14-20 year old boys and girls)
 - Learning for Life/Exploring (14-20 year old boys and girls)

Camp Fire

1925 2nd Ave S, Great Falls 59405 452-8543
campfire.org

- Pre-School Group meets weekly for 1 hour during the school year.
- School Age Programs: weekly club meetings and other trainings for youth pre-k through 12th grade.

Children's Museum of Montana (CMOM)

22 Railroad Square, Great Falls 59401 452-6661
childrensmuseumofmontana.org

- The Children's Museum of Montana exists to ignite a lifelong passion for learning through hands-on exploration of science, math and culture through play. Hours of operation are Monday-Saturday 9:30-5:00. Play groups, summer camps and special free admission days. Birthday party and rental rooms available.

Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming

4930 Ninth Ave South, Great Falls 59405
800-736-5243 gsmw.org

- Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. Provides opportunities for girls to discover fun, friendship, and the rewards of girls working together. Experiences include field trips, sports, skill-building clinics, community service projects, cultural exchanges, travel, financial literacy, and environmental awareness.

Great Falls Gymnastics Academy

815 1st Ave N Great Falls 59401 727-8782
greatfallsgymnastics.com

- Preschool, Summer Day Camps, Recreational and Competitive gymnastics for boys and girls, Tumbling, Revelation Wellness (adult fitness), Holy Yoga, Classical Ballet and Birthday parties.

Great Falls Parks & Recreation

1700 River Drive North, Great Falls 59401
771-1265 greatfallsmt.net

- Aquatics - swim lessons 6 mo - Adult, open swim, Junior Life Guard and CPR/First Aid.
- Special Events - Ice Breaker Road Race, Easter Egg Hunt and Pet & Doll Parade.

Great Falls Public Library

301 2nd Avenue North, Great Falls 59401
453-0349 greatfallslibrary.org

- **Story Time:** Kids' Place, Wednesday and Thursday, 10:30am - 11:00am, 30 months - 5 year-olds.



- **Busy Fingers:** Kids' Place, Wednesday and Thursday of the first full week of each month, 10:30am - 12:00pm.
- **Toddler Time:** Basement, Friday, 10:30am - 11:15am, Birth - 30 months.

Heisey Memorial Youth Center

313 7th Street North, Great Falls 59401
453-1211 heisey@theheisey.org

- Recreational activities for youth - basketball, volleyball, dance, cheer, tutoring and summer camps.

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)

Central Assembly: 2001 Central Ave,
Great Falls, 59405 453-5524 mops.org
• Meets every 2nd & 4th Thursday @9:15am

4H

3300 3rd St NE, Great Falls 59404 454-6980
msuextension.org/cascade/4h.html

- Provides education in over 60 different projects such as robotics, interior design, citizenship, home arts, nature & ecology, photography, dog obedience, leadership and so much more. 4H is available to ages 6-18.

Did you know?

- Children in high quality early care are more likely to graduate from high school.

Health Care

Poison Control #1-800-222-1222

City County Health Department

115 4th St S, Great Falls 59401 454-6950
cchdmt.org

• The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Program: Nutrition education to pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children from birth to five years. Provides healthy supplemental foods. 454-6953

- **Breast Feeding Support:** Breastfeeding counseling to mothers during pregnancy. After delivery, our Certified Lactation Counselors continue to assist mothers and babies to successfully breastfeed. No appointment is necessary. 454-6953

- **Developmental Screening:** FREE developmental screening for children birth to 5 years. Judy Flint at 268-6446.

- **Public Health Home Visitation:** Visits in the parent's home by a nurse, social worker, and/or dietician for Medicaid eligible pregnant women, babies, and children up to age 5. 791-9299

- **Parents as Teachers (PAT):** Help families in giving their children a solid education foundation during their preschool years. Attend our monthly "Parents as Teachers" group. 791-9296

- **Immunizations:** Provides vaccinations for children and adults of all ages on a walk-in basis. The Immunization Clinic accepts insurance and all payment types, but no one will be denied service due to inability to pay. 454-6950

- **Safe Kids Car Seat:** The Safe Kids Cascade County coalition focus is on occupant protection, including the proper use of car seats and seat belts. 452-0881 x 304

- **Montana Asthma Program:** Children with Asthma age 0-17years who have problems with their asthma such as frequent symptoms including, activity limitations, or emergency department visits for asthma. Home visits from registered nurses who can answer questions. 791-9888.

- **Safe Care Parenting Home Visits:** 18 week home visit parenting program for pregnant women, young children and families. 791-9262

- **Circle of Security Parenting Classes:** Available to any caregiver of young children regardless of income.

ECHOZ Pregnancy Care Center

3226 10th Ave S, Great Falls 59405 727-1850
echoz.org pregnancydecisionline.org

- Echoz Pregnancy Care Center is a Pregnancy Medical Clinic offering free services including pregnancy testing and pregnancy diagnoses via ultrasound. Earn While You Learn Program where by doing our educational resources; the patients earn everything they need for their baby for free, including cribs, mattresses, playpens, diapers, etc.

Did you know?

- Employees with quality reliable child care have better attendance.

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies

hmhb-mt.org

- Text4baby – a free mobile information service, text: BABY to 511411

Healthy Montana Kids

dphhs.mt.gov/hmk

- Free or low cost health coverage for kids

Indian Family Health Clinic

1220 Central Ave Suites 1 & 2B, Great Falls 59401
268-1587 (Administration & Behavioral Health)
268-1510 (Clinic) indianfamilyhealth.org

- Our services target American Indians and Alaska Natives. Health care for all ages, immunizations, sports physicals, diabetes care, laboratory services, limited pharmacy services, transportation to IHS in Browning and Rocky Boy.
- Health and addiction counseling services, mental health referrals, culturally focused activities.
- Fitness Center with strength and cardio equipment, fitness classes, personalized fitness plans and nutrition and weight loss programs
- Education services in health promotion, diabetes management, hypertension, weight loss, tobacco cessation, and nutrition counseling. Marketplace Healthcare enrollment.

Special Needs

AWARE

1220 3rd Ave S Great Falls 59405
868-1958 (Andrea) or 698-5231 (Erin)
aware-inc.org

- AWARE Successful Starts provides outpatient therapy which includes individual, family and group sessions. Home Support Service – this service provides support and skill building to families in the home environment. All services are focused on mental health with an emphasis on social emotional development.

Benefis: benefis.org

Benefis Pediatric

Physicians Professional Building,
1300 28th Street South Suite 6,

Great Falls 59405 731-8888

- Benefis Pediatrics medical care to children, from birth through young adulthood. Well child care, immunizations, assessment of growth and development, and screening of mental and social well-being. Hearing and vision screening and routine screening lab work. Camp, sports, and employment physicals are also available.
- Our office welcomes children with special health care needs. Comprehensive assessment and management to include disorders of the respiratory and GI systems, the endocrine and neurological systems, disorders of the skin, disorders of the musculoskeletal system, disorders of the ears, eyes, and mouth, including congenital and infectious causes. Perform minor surgeries, diagnosis and

including the airways, pancreas, sweat glands, and intestinal tract. Children are evaluated by a team that includes a pediatric pulmonologist, nurses, respiratory therapist, nutritionist and social worker at no cost to the patient.

- **Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics** Children with conditions and disabilities that affect their development, such as autism, developmental delay, prenatal drug effects, premature birth and attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder. Specialist: Laura Nicholson, MD 281-8700
- **Endocrine** - Children with endocrine conditions including diabetes, growth disorders, puberty disorders, thyroid conditions and others. Specialist: Sharon Zemel, MD 237-5300



management of sprains and strains, as well as simple fracture care, and treatment for pediatric mental health or behavioral issues.

Pediatric Therapy Center

Benefis West Campus 500 15th Ave S,
Great Falls 59405 (flagpole entrance) 455-2661

- **Physical, Occupational and Speech-language therapy service.** Evaluations to determine developmental levels, evaluations for augmentative or alternative communication devices, assistive technology assessments, treatment of fine and gross motor delays, treatment of swallowing, feeding and/or eating problems, treatment of cognitive and communication delays, visual-motor and sensory integration therapy, adaptive equipment, and orthotics.

Benefis Pediatric Specialty Clinic

Physicians Professional Building,
1300 28th Street South Suite 4,
Great Falls 59405 455-4300

- **Cleft/Craniofacial**- Provided at no cost for children with cleft palate and craniofacial disorders in Great Falls, Browning and Wolf Point.
- **Cystic Fibrosis** - Cystic Fibrosis is an inherited disorder that affects many body systems,

- **Gastroenterology** - Children experiencing problems of the esophagus, stomach, gallbladder, pancreas, liver and small and large intestines are evaluated and treated at this clinic. Specialist: Thomas Flass, MD 237-5300
- **Genetic** - Patients of any age suspected or known to have a genetic disorder. Diagnosis and evaluation, proper diet, and tendency for this disorder to recur in future pregnancies. Specialists: Shodair Hospital 444-7530

“Every dollar spent on good, early-childhood programs results in \$7 to \$9 savings down the road”

Governor Bullock

- **Hematology** - Children with blood disorders are evaluated and treated at this clinic. Including problems with red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets, bone marrow, the blood's ability to clot when needed or clots forming when and where they aren't needed. Specialist:



Carrie Neuhardt, MD 237-5340

- **High Risk Infant Follow-up Clinic** - Children who spend their first days in the Newborn Intensive Care Nursery (NICU) can experience developmental delays. A neonatologist, speech therapist, physical therapist and social worker screen for developmental delays and offer parents resources for promoting their child's development.
- **Metabolic** - Children receive diagnosis and evaluation of a variety of metabolic conditions. Assistance for long term management of dietary, developmental, social, and other issues with having a metabolic condition. This team includes a metabolic specialist, a geneticist, a nutritionist, a nurse and a social worker. No charge to the patient. Specialists: Shodair Hospital 444-7530
- **Orthopedic** - Children with conditions affecting their bones, muscles, ligaments, and spine, are evaluated at this clinic. A pediatric orthopedist, a physical therapist and a nurse make up this team. Specialist: Joshua Klatt, MD 721-4436
- **Telemedicine Clinics** - To facilitate follow-up specialty care and on-going patient evaluation and communication. Clinics are offered in many of the specialty areas. These are facilitated by the nurse coordinator.
- **Family Advocates** - Our specialty clinics provide family advocates as a resource to our patients and families. Family advocates are trained personnel who have raised a child with special health care needs. They consult with families and assist with navigating resources when caring for a child with special needs.

Big Sky Therapeutic Services

1601 2nd Ave N, Great Falls 59405 240-2045
bigskytherapy.com

- Provides counseling services for families, children and individuals with varying challenges in the office, home or community setting.
- Services include:

- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
- Family Therapy
- Behavior modification
- Functional behavioral assessments and programming
- Trauma focused therapy
- Special education programming and consultation
- Family, parent and child relationship issues
- Parent and professional training and education
- Parenting and individual education classes
- Circle of Security (COS)
- Moral Reconnection Therapy (MRT)
- Parenting Wisely
- Parents-as Teachers in-home services
- SafeCare In-home services

Center for Mental Health

915 1st Ave S, Great Falls 59401 771-2100
center4mh.org

- Youth Crisis Diversion: A 24 hours per day/7 days a week program designed to help youth and families during a crisis or a life challenging event. A case manager gives recommendations to community resources to assist the youth and their family.
- Youth Case Management: Connects the needs of the youth and their families with community resources. Help make informed choices, timely access to needed assistance, encouragement in developing realistic, attainable life goals and preservation of families in our community.
- In-Home Family Care: Therapeutic and psycho-educational services and individual and family counseling, psycho-education regarding child's mental health, mood, behaviors and development, a therapeutic team in the home, school.
- Comprehensive School & Community Treatment (CSCT): A program that promotes student's positive involvement in their community, school and home while receiving specialized mental health services in the least restrictive treatment environment possible on a

daily basis.

- Community Based Psychiatric Rehabilitation & Support (CBPRS): A program that teaches skills such as symptom management, coping strategies, communication strategies, participating in the community, attending appointments, health and exercise, socialization skills, and recreational skills in either group or individual settings.
- Family-Based (In-Home) Services: A program to provide intensive services to a family that is in danger of having a child removed from the home by the Department of Family Services or Youth Court. The goal is to stabilize the family situation and begin correcting the problems in the home in order to keep the family together.

Eagle Mount

PO Box 2866, Great Falls 59403 454-1449
eaglemount.net

- Provide therapeutic and recreational activities for children and adults with physical, mental or behavioral challenges, striving to improve the quality of life for them and their families. Eagle Mount Great Falls target population is anyone in our community from the age of 6 weeks old to 102 years old that has a doctor diagnosed disability.

Easter Seals Goodwill

425 1st Ave. N, Great Falls 59401 761-3680
esgw.org

- Day habilitation, supported living, and job training, coaching and placement assistance for adults with disabilities. Easter Seals-Goodwill also provides clinical services including home health care, personal care and adult day services for individuals needing extra assistance to maintain their independence.

Did you know?

- Children in high quality early care perform better in math, language and reading.

Full Circle Mental Health Center

527- 18th Ave NE, Great Falls 59404 403-6710
facebook.com/pages/Full-Circle

- Intensive services that "wraparound" a family designed to keep children in their homes
 - Facilitation of treatment team meetings
 - Individual and/or family therapy
 - Communication skills
 - Conflict management and resolution
- Thoughtful treatment plan design, based on your needs and strengths to help children and families build skills
 - In-home support
 - Center based interventions
 - Referral and linkage to other service providers
 - Focus on individual and family strengths
 - Children ages 2-18 served (19 if still enrolled in school)

GF Clinic Pediatrics

1400 29th Street South, Great Falls 59405
771-3107 gfclinic.com

- Pediatrics, same day appointments, Pediatric Immunization Clinic, Well Child Care, Pediatric Speech & Language Therapy, Pediatric Physical Therapy, Pediatric/Young Adult Psychiatry, General Pediatrics, Newborn Nursery Services, Pediatric Cardiology, Behavioral & Developmental Pediatrics
- Great Falls Clinic Pediatrics 3000 15th Avenue 454-2171 Monday- Friday 8am-6pm,
- Northwest Clinic Pediatrics 1600 Division Road Monday-Thursday 8am-6pm and Friday 8am-5pm.
- Pediatric Weekend Walk-In at Immediate Care Center 1400 29th Street South 454-2171 Saturday and Sunday 10am-1pm.
- Immunizations Walk-In Clinic Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am-11am and 2pm to 4pm.

Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB)

3911 Central Avenue, Great Falls 59405
771-6000 msdb.mt.gov

- MSDB provides educational opportunities for Montana's deaf, hard of hearing, blind, and visually impaired children.
- Preschool through high school attend MSDB as residential or day students on the Great Falls campus.
- MSDB also serves as a statewide resource center for parents of deaf and blind children and for school districts and professionals serving students with different hearing levels and/or various vision conditions.

Parents, Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK)

Central office: 516 N 32nd St, Billings 59101
Toll free: 800-222-7585 pluk.org

- Provides information, training, and support to families of children with special needs across Montana. Anyone may contact PLUK for free assistance with any issue, disability, medical, insurance, school, resources, services, legal rights, employment, social security, child care, daily living, work, or play. There are no eligibility criteria. Family advocates are located in communities throughout the state.

Did you know?

- Quality child care leads to more job opportunities and higher earnings.

Peace Place Respite Care

1315 Central Avenue, Great Falls 59401
453-1411 peaceplace@firstpresgfmt.org

- Providing temporary RELIEF care for all families of young children with special needs.
- We are a state-licensed childcare facility allowing special folks to re-energize, re-focus, and renew their spirits.



Open: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings & occasional Wednesday evenings.

Quality Life Concepts

215 Smelter Avenue NE, Great Falls 59404
452-9531 qlc-gtf.org

- Infant Toddler Program is designed to provide home based services and supports for children up to age 3 who have delays in development or have been diagnosed with a condition that has a high probability in delayed development. Supports can be emotional, access to resources & materials, determine how early intervention might best fit into their lives.
- Early Childhood Developmental Screenings in collaboration with local school districts, CCHD, Early Head Start etc. to identify & refer children from birth to age 3 who may have conditions interfering with growth and development.
- Family Education & Support Program provides home based services to families who have children with developmental disabilities or are at risk for delays aged 3 to 21. Help parents learn skills to teach their child, offer emotional support, information and coordination of other services.
- Children's Waiver Services are designed to provide intensive services to meet the exceptional needs of an eligible child aged 18 months to 22 years, and enhance a family's ability to maintain their children in the family home.
- Evaluation & Diagnostic Services are provided by an evaluation team of the family/parent, psychologist, speech therapist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, physician, and behavioral specialist. The team determines what contributes to a child's behavior and determines strategies for supporting the child, locate resources, and offer specific evaluation for autism spectrum disorders.

- Autism Services are provided to children of all ages. Autism services include: Consultation by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Applied Behavior Analysis, parent training, and direct child training by a Children's Autism Trainer.

Scottish Rite Childhood Language Disorders Clinic

1304 13th St. S, Great Falls 59405 727-1088
gfsrlc@bresnan.net

- The Scottish Rite Childhood Language Disorders Clinic provides FREE speech, language, and feeding evaluations and therapy to preschool children in the north central portion of Montana.

Research has shown that kids who take part in prekindergarten programs are less likely to have to repeat a grade, drop out of school, become teenage parents, abuse drugs or end up in jail.

Airman & Family Readiness Center

7215Goddard Ave MAFB 59402 731-4900

- Airman & Family Readiness Center works with EFMP service members and their family to provide comprehensive and coordinated services within military agencies and civilian resources.
 - Refer Airman and family members to support services and advocacy assistance
 - Refer Airman and family members to EFMP-Medical (SNIAC) for screening and enrollment
 - Network with installation EFMP-Medical to provide referral and support community resources

Child Protection Services

Child Abuse Hotline

#1-866-820-5437

CASA-CAN

325 2nd Ave N, Great Falls 59401 454-6738
casacan.org

- CASA-CAN provides volunteer guardians ad litem who advocate for the best interest of children who are in the foster care system due to abuse, abandonment or neglect. Speaks for the children's best interests and works to ensure their rights are protected. The Eighth Judicial District Court judges appoint guardians ad litem. The goal is to reunite families. If that is not an option, guardians ad litem help ensure that children are in a safe, permanent home as quickly as possible.

"If you want your children to turn out well, spend twice as much time with them and half as much money."

Abigail Van Buren

Children's Receiving Home

PO Box 1061, Great Falls 59403 727-4843
gfrh@bresnan.net

- Provides emergency shelter and placement services for local children who have been placed into foster care due to issues of child abuse and neglect.

Child and Family Services

2300 12th Ave S #211, Great Falls 59405
727-7746 dphhs.mt.gov/cfsd

- Protective services for abused, neglected or abandoned children. Services for adoption, foster care, and guardianship.

Dandelion Foundation

509 Smelter Ave NW, Great Falls 59404
dandelionfoundation.org

- Community awareness events on child abuse and domestic violence where victims and survivors of abuse can reach out. Presentations to at risk groups on what abuse is and how to find help. Opportunity for community members to volunteer, provide education and resources to strengthen families, prevent future instances of abuse, and support via social media and live interactions.

Family Support

ServicesVoices of Hope

Hotline #211

Family Promise of Great Falls

1019 Central Ave, Great Falls 59401 788-6411
familypromisegf.org

- Family Promise is a 501c3 nonprofit organization committed to helping homeless and low-income families achieve lasting independence.
- The Family Promise Network Program brings shelter, meals, and support services to families without homes.
- Family Promise works in collaboration with

area social service agencies. Local social service agencies refer families to the Network and may also help guests find or provide housing, jobs, and other needed services.

Grandparents raising Grandchildren

3300 3rd St NE, Great Falls 59404 454-6980
msuextension.org

- The Montana Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Project, offers these caregivers support, education and access to resources so they can raise children who know emotional and physical safety, excel in school and are prepared to take on the challenges of their new life.
- Our monthly educational meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month beginning in October.

My Neighbor in Need

525 Central Ave, Great Falls 59401
750-2542 myneighborinneed.org

- My Neighbor in Need is a 24-hr, seven-day a week, website where anyone with a specific need – in a specific area, can ask for help with that need. Their need is verified and goes live on the website where anyone in the world can offer help. The person in need and the person wishing to help never meet. It's anonymous giving at its best!

• Need Categories:

- Furniture
- House-Hold Items
- Transportation (bus pass)
- Emergency Fuel
- Plumbing
- Electrical
- Crucial Car Repairs Including Tire Issues
- Potentially Dangerous Items
- One-Time City Required Yard Clean-Up
- One-Time Residence/House Cleaning

Rescue Mission

311 2nd Avenue South, Great Falls 59405
761-2653 gfrm.org

- Services to Families and Children: shelter, food, clothing, limited medical services, after

school and summer programs.

- Special events throughout the year:
 - Back to School Rally
 - Christmas Party
 - Easter Egg Hunt on Good Friday
 - New Year's Eve Blast

Rural Dynamics

2022 Central Avenue, Great Falls 59401
877-275-2227 ruraldynamics.org

- Non-profit organization specializes in financial management/ budget counseling, mortgage delinquency and default resolution counseling, pre-purchase counseling, rental housing counseling, services for homeless counseling, financial education and resources, debt management, credit building coaching, credit building loans, medical assistance loans, and free tax preparation. Also provides pre-and-post bankruptcy counseling and education.

Salvation Army

527 9th Ave S, Great Falls 59405
761-5660 salvationarmy.org

- Provide emergency food baskets, prescription assistance, utility assistance, rental assistance and hygiene needs. Spiritual support and youth activities through our CORPS offices and youth center.

St. Vincent DePaul

426 Central Avenue West, Great Falls 59404
761-0870

- Emergency food, clothing, housing and thrift store.

YWCA

220 2nd Street North, Great Falls 59401
452-1315 ywcagreatfalls.org

- Mercy Home Shelter program offers safe, temporary shelter to women and their children seeking refuge from partner violence.
- Classes & Workshops
- Counseling
- Case Management
- Support Groups
- Children's Advocacy



Child Care Check List

A Guide to choosing quality childcare

Caregivers & Teachers

- Seem to really like children
- Get down on child's level when speaking
- Greet children when they arrive
- Quickly meet child's needs even when busy
- Involved in continuing education programs
- Always ready to answer questions
- Tell you what your child is doing every day
- Welcome parents ideas and involvement
- Staff and children enjoy being together
- Meet child to staff ratios for each age group

Activities

- Appropriate for each age group
- Daily balance of play, story & nap times
- Healthy food and snacks
- Variety of toys & learning materials for all children



Did you know?

Children in high quality early care show fewer behavioral problems.

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Setting

- Bright and pleasant environment
- Fenced outdoor play area
- Variety of safe play equipment
- Play areas easily viewed by staff at all times
- Separate areas for resting, quiet play & active play



In General

- You agree with discipline practices
- You hear the sounds of happy children
- Children are comforted as needed
- The provider is licensed & regulated
- Surprise visits by parents are encouraged



Types of Child Care

- Family Child Care Homes: a home-like atmosphere with a ratio of one caregiver to a maximum of six children including the provider's own under the age of six.
- Group Child Care: settings where two adults provide care for a maximum of 12 children including the provider's own under the age of six. Care is often provided in a private home.
- Child Care Centers: care for 13 or more children with hours that normally coincide with regular working hours.
- Preschools: part-day programs and are not regulated in Montana.
- Drop-in Child Care: not regulated by the state of Montana because the care provided is usually irregular and for shorter periods of time.



202 2nd Ave. S. Ste 201
Great Falls, MT 59405
FamilyConnectionsMT.org