

How to Compare Child Care & Daycare Software

Choosing child care management software is an important investment in your business. That's why it's imperative to evaluate your options and make a decision that's right for your business.



Define your Goals

Which features and benefits are most important to you? What administrative tasks take the most time and would benefit from automation? In which areas do you feel the management of your center could be streamlined or improved?

Features

Before you begin your search, think about what features in a child care software program are important to you. Would automatic payment collection improve your revenue flow? Would automating child check-in improve accuracy of headcounts and help capture late pickup fees? Could communication with parents be more convenient? By asking these simple questions, you'll narrow your choices significantly. This will help you focus on solutions, that best meet your criteria.

Consultation

Your software consultant should clearly understand your needs and help you select the best features for your particular business.

What should I request to evaluate and compare daycare programs?

- At a minimum, request the following:
- A detailed outline of software features and pricing
 - Written documentation of any ongoing fees; annual support costs, cloud fees, etc.
 - Company information: experience, industry knowledge, and stability of service
 - Availability of training and technical support

What about price? Can I afford it?

Cost is a consideration for any business owner. However, once you experience the timesaving benefits of automation, you'll wonder how you survived without it. To make it more affordable, the software company you choose should be able to provide financing options to help the investment fit within your budget.

SOFTWARE COMPARISON CHECKLIST

	PROCARE	SOFTWARE COMPANY	SOFTWARE COMPANY
Deployment			
Web-Based	✓		
Installed	✓		
Features			
Billing & Invoicing	✓		
Classroom Ratio Management	✓		
Check in / Check Out	✓		
Child Care Center	✓		
Daily Reports	✓		
Employee Management	✓		
Food Program Records	✓		
Immunization Records	✓		
Mailing List Management	✓		
Menu Planning	✓		
Online Registration	✓		
Parent / Child Records	✓		
Parent Portal	✓		
Payment Processing	✓		
Robust Reporting	✓		
Text Messaging	✓		
Wait List Management	✓		
Automated Tuition Collection	✓		
Knowledgeable U.S.-Based Support Team	✓		
Security Features and Integrated Hardware	✓		