

Parents Know Best...

Choosing a Family Day Care Home

A Home Away From Home

There is no perfect child care provider just like there is no perfect parent.

When looking for that *home away from home* for your child, look for qualities that are most important to you.

When selecting a family day care provider, be sure to interview and observe several providers before making your choice.

Things to Consider:

Does the Family Day Care Provider...

- Appear to be warm and friendly?
- Seem calm and gentle?
- Treat each child as an individual with a different personality?
- Accept and respect your family and cultural values?
- Read and talk with the children?
- Encourage the children to express themselves?
- Have previous experience working with children?
- Have training in child development?
- Share your attitudes and methods of guiding and controlling behavior?
- Serve nutritious meals and snacks?
- Expect to take time to discuss your children with you regularly?
- Express pride in the job of caring for children?

Are There Opportunities for Children to...

- Make friends with other children?
- Receiving individual attention?
- Use books, creative materials, games and toys regularly?
- Play actively and quietly in and out-of-doors?
- Study and do homework?

Does the Day Care Home Have...

- A clean and comfortable look?
- Space for all the children?
- Space for each child to nap?
- Safety caps on electrical outlets?

- A locked cabinet for storage of medicine, cleaners, and poisons?
- An alternate exit in case of fire?
- A safe outdoor play area nearby?

Do You Feel That...

- Being in the day care home will be a happy experience for your child?
- You can develop a relaxed sharing relationship with the family dare care provider?

Be Sure to Discuss:

- The total fees to be paid
- A plan for an emergency or a child's illness
- Who will provide food for meals and snacks and how many meals will be served
- How children will get to and from the day care home
- What time children will arrive and leave the day care home
- Any special arrangements for holidays or vacations
- Any special characteristics of your child, such as food preferences, habits, allergies and special medical needs
- The name, address and phone number of your child's school

Family Dare Care...

What is it?

This type of care is provided in the caregiver's home. Most family care homes accept children from infancy through school-age; however, some providers care for only one specific age group.

Care in these settings may be provided in a relaxed, nurturing, home-like atmosphere, or it may be a more structured, educational setting.

When a family day care home provides care for more than one family's children, it must be licensed.

Licensing Capacities

Small Family Dare Care Homes

Maximum Capacity (including provider's own children)

- **Four (4) infants** *(or)*
- **Six (6) Children**, *no more than three (3) of whom may be infants (or)*
- **Eight (8) children**, *if two are six years of age or older and no more than two whom are infants*

Large Family Day Care Homes

Maximum Capacity *(including provider's own children)*

If the family day care home has an assistant provider:

Twelve (12) children, no more than four (4) of whom may be infants (or)

Fourteen (14) children, if two (2) are six years of age or older and no more than three (3) whom are infants

Parents Know Best...

Choosing a child care arrangement is one of the most important decisions made by parents. Although there are many different child care options, only parents who after all know their child best, should make this decision.

No one kind of child care is best for all children. Some children do well in a center-based group program. Others need a more home-like setting provided by a family day care home. Some children are best served in their own home. No matter what the setting, the key factor in choosing a childcare arrangement is quality.

High Quality Child Care Should Offer...

- **CAREGIVERS** who are knowledgeable, loving and nurturing and who will work with you to provide the best possible care for your child.
- **ENVIROMENTS** that are safe and friendly, and provide for the healthy growth and development of your child.
- **ACTIVITIES** that are both formal and informal and are appropriate for your child's age and developmental level.