



Choosing Quality Family Child Care Homes



Choosing child care can be tough and it is important to understand your options. Below is some information regarding family child care homes. The information listed defines family child care homes and gives some tips on choosing a child care home that meets your family's needs.

Licensed Family Child Care

Program and Equipment Includes:

- Appropriate learning/play equipment
- Letting parents visit at any time
- No ban on religious programming
- Fenced in Backyard

Everyone working in a licensed child care home must:

- Pass a criminal history check
- Be trained in universal precautions
- Be trained in First Aid and CPR
- Have a physical examination upon employment
- Have a Mantoux TB test upon employment and then every year thereafter

The house where licensed child care is provided must:

- Have at least 35 sq. ft. of space per child (class II homes)
- Be in sound, neat and sanitary condition
- Keep play equipment in safe condition
- Lock up medicines, hazardous materials, chemicals poisons, and firearms and ammunition
- Having a working telephone
- Post emergency telephone numbers
- Post an evacuation plan
- Have a discipline policy on file signed by parents
- Provide nutritious food
- Keep up-to-date records on children and staff
- Post the Child Care Home License
- Fence off in-ground and above ground swimming pools

The Children at the child care home must:

- Have enough caregivers—there is a required ratio for each group (See Chart)
- Be within sight or sound at all times

State health requirements include:

- A health exam when each child is enrolled
- An immunization record for children
- Isolation procedures for children who are sick
- Having written permission from the child's parent or guardian to give medications
- Keeping a written record of when each child gets their medication, to be sure the child receives the right amount at the right time

Meals or snacks:

- Be nutritionally balanced
- Give children free access to drinking water

To get a license a child care home must:

- Pass an on site inspection of health, sanitization and safety by a state license consultant
- Have an owner that has attended safe sleep training (SIDS)

Check It Out Quality Indicators

Ask these questions to evaluate your child care options:

Does the person who will be caring for your child have special training in early childhood education, First Aid, and CPR?

How long has the caregiver been in the same program or providing child care in the home?

Are just a few children being cared for by one caregiver (low child/adult ratio)?

If there is more than one caregiver in the setting, is the total number of children in the group still fairly small (group size)?

If you are considering a more formal child care program, is it nationally accredited, and is it state licensed or regulated?

Does the caregiver welcome drop-in visits and parent ideas and involvement?

Does the caregiver get on the children's eye level, and give them lots of attention and encouragement?

Are there planned activities for children to do as well as lots of time for free play?

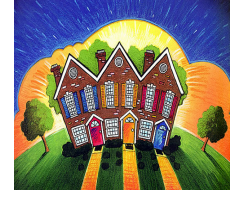
Are materials—such as books, blocks, and art materials—available to children all day long?

Does the place look clean and safe and is hand washing done often?

This list taken from
www.childcareaware.org



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Non -Licensed Family Child Care

There are only 17 eligibility standards that non-licensed child care providers must meet. Non-licensed child care providers can care for five (5) or fewer unrelated children at one time. Children whom are related to the provider do not count in the providers maximum of five (5) children at one time. You may hear non-licensed family child care providers referred to as legally licensed exempt providers. The 17 standards that non-licensed providers accepting child care development fund vouchers (CCDF) are:

- All members of the household age 18 or older must pass a limited criminal history check
- All members of the household age 18 or older must pass a 5 panel drug screen signed by a medical review officer
- Any persons in direct supervision of the children must have CPR and First Aid certification
- All members of the household age 18 or older must provide results of Mantoux TB test
- All members of the household age 18 or older must provide evidence that they have not been named as an alleged perpetrator of child abuse or neglect
- The home must have working smoke detectors
- There must be written emergency plans
- Monthly fire drills must be conducted
- There must be a working land line telephone
- The environment must be inaccessible to firearms, poisons, chemicals and medications
- There must be two ground level exits that can be practiced in a fire drill. The exits may not be windows.
- There must be at a minimum 2 (2 1/2) pound fire extinguishers that are ABC approved
- The provider must provide proof of running water
- The provider must maintain current immunization records for all children
- The provider must sign and agree to a tobacco and substance policy regarding the use of tobacco or alcohol during child care
- The children must remain in sight or sound at all times
- The provider must attend safe sleep training (SIDS)

Providers are visited yearly for recertification.

Check It Out Quality Indicators

Ask these questions to evaluate your child care options:

Does the person who will be caring for your child have special training in early childhood education, First Aid, and CPR?

How long has the caregiver been in the same program or providing child care in the home?

Are just a few children being cared for by one caregiver (low child/adult ratio)?

If there is more than one caregiver in the setting, is the total number of children in the group still fairly small (group size)?

If you are considering a more formal child care program, is it nationally accredited, and is it state licensed or regulated?

Does the caregiver welcome drop-in visits and parent ideas and involvement?

Does the caregiver get on the children's eye level, and give them lots of attention and encouragement?

Are there planned activities for children to do as well as lots of time for free play?

Are materials—such as books, blocks, and art materials—available to children all day long?

Does the place look clean and safe and is hand washing done often?

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