

Many families select a family child care provider to care for their children. In New Jersey, Family Child Care is a voluntary registration program in which providers can care for up to 5 children in their home for a fee. Registered family child care providers have completed an application process, attended mandatory training, have a health and safety home inspection, and offer an educational program for children. The provider's home is registered with the state of New Jersey. Family child care providers can gain accreditation through the National Association of Family Child Care by meeting higher standards of quality.

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United Way of
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Visit us at www.cccunion.org for child care referrals and more!



Selecting a Family Child Care Provider

When choosing a family child care provider, visit many homes, check references and ask the following questions. Simply check off the boxes if the answer to the question is "yes" and add the checks for each program to compare programs.

Programs

1 2 3

Health and Safety

- ☐ ☐ ☐ Is there a current Certificate of Registration posted?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Are there five children or less?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Does the provider involve her own children in the program?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Is the home clean and child-proofed?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Is there an outdoor play area?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Is the outdoor area fenced in with an array of climbing and ride-on toys?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Are the meals healthy and prepared in a clean kitchen?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Do the children and provider wash their hands before touching food, after diapering and toileting, and coming in from outside?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Are diaper-changing surfaces and potty chairs cleaned and disinfected with bleach solution after each use?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Are tables used by the children cleaned and sanitized before and after using them for play or eating?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ If pets are in the home, are they properly cared for and have up-to date vaccines?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Is there a clear policy for giving medicine and the care of sick children?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Are basic first aid supplies stored out of children's reach and readily available to the provider?

- ☐ ☐ ☐ Have all adults had their backgrounds checked to determine whether an incident of child abuse or neglect has been confirmed against any them?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ If weapons are kept in the home, are they locked and out of the way from children? Is the ammunition stored separately from the firearms?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ What is the emergency evacuation plan in case of disasters like fire or flood?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ What is the plan if a child is injured or sick?

Learning Environment

- ☐ ☐ ☐ Is there a daily schedule posted?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Does the daily schedule include story time? Are there many areas of the house for children's use?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Are the toys in good repair and age-appropriate?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Is there a good balance between active play and quiet time?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Is the use of television limited?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Are materials provided for dramatic play and language development, visual and fine motor development, auditory development, creative expression and large muscle development?

- ☐ ☐ ☐ Does the provider make eye contact when speaking to a child?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Do the children appear to be happy?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Do the children play well with each other?

Parent Policies

- ☐ ☐ ☐ Can parents visit at any time?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Do the fees and hours fit your needs?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Do you agree with the provider's discipline policy?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Does the provider communicate with parents regularly? How?



Training

- ☐ ☐ ☐ Does the provider have experience and training in child care?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Does the provider have current CPR and first aid certification?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Does the provider attend training throughout the year?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Does the provider have an advanced learning credential like a college degree, Child Development Associate (CDA) and/or a New Jersey Infant/Toddler Credential?

Administration

- ☐ ☐ ☐ Do they have a parent enrollment packet?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Is there a skilled substitute caregiver if needed?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Is there a written agreement detailing policies and procedures?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Is there a policy about picking up and dropping off children? Can anyone pick up your child with your permission?
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Has the provider achieved accreditation from a national organization?

_____ Totals per program visited