

Keeping Good Child Care!

Finding child care that meets your needs can be a big job. You've made calls, interviewed providers, watched them care for children and checked their references.

Now you've made a decision and your children are getting settled in.



Mission Accomplished? . . . not quite! You need to know how to KEEP that good provider . . .

It All Takes TEAMWORK!!

Start by reading the policies

Know what will be expected of you and what you can expect. Ask questions if you don't understand the policy or if you don't agree with what they expect of you. Keep your copy of the policy and look at it if you have any questions in the future about what's expected.

Be responsible & don't take advantage.

- Complete the enrollment forms right away.
- Bring your children on time.
- Pick them up on time, or call if you can't.
- Pay your provider on time – don't wait to be asked. If you get subsidized child care, pay your fee promptly and use child care only for approved uses.
- Be honest with your provider when your child is sick – don't tell your provider your child is okay if it's not true.

- Dress your child for the weather and leave a change of clothes and other supplies the provider requests.
- Have a back-up plan for who will care for your child on days the provider needs off for emergencies, illness, vacation, or holidays that you have to work.

Treat your provider like you would any other business person, not as a friend or “just the babysitter”.

Talk to your provider.

Tell your provider about your child’s interests, personality, food preferences, routines and what works for discipline. This will make it much easier for your child to get comfortable in a new child care.

Keep talking to your provider.

Tell your provider about:

- Any illness your child has been to the doctor for, or has been exposed to.
- Any medication your child is taking.
- Additional immunizations your child has had.
- Problems your child has reported at child care.
- Changes at home that may affect your child’s behavior.
- Changes in your employment, work schedule or home address/phone.

Having Problems?

First, **talk to your provider** about your concerns. Pick a time when the child won’t hear you and the provider can give you her undivided attention.

Listen to your provider’s ideas. Your provider has had lots of training in how to work with children. Even if those ideas are different from yours, think about trying them.

Then, **work together with your provider** to improve the situation. Share what has worked for you at home. Try to use the same ideas at home that are being used at child care.

If it doesn’t get better, **give notice** as required by the policy. Expect to pay for the length of time the policy requires.

Reach closure. Don’t just quit . . . your children need a chance to say goodbye to the children and provider who have become important to them, and you need time to look carefully for new child care.

Don’t leave angry. You can decide this is not the best place for your child without being rude or blaming. Be mature and respectful. Don’t bad-mouth the provider to others.

A Few Reminders. . .

- * Think first, don't dump your troubles on your provider or share things that they don't need to know to care for your child.
- * If you become friends with your provider, don't take advantage of the friendship... it's still a business.
- * Don't hang around when you bring your child or come to pick them up. Your provider is busy with the other children, and your child will adjust faster if you give a hug and then go. If your child is the last one to leave, remember the provider wants to end the work day, just like you do!

If you feel the provider has mistreated your child or has broken the licensing rules, call the county social worker who licenses providers.

They can't solve issues about business practices (payment policies, vacations, hours, etc.), but they are concerned about child maltreatment, lack of supervision, too many children in care, and other violations of the state rule.

Do . . . Say thanks!

Let your provider know you appreciate having reliable child care. This may be the best way to keep a good provider!

