CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

INFORMATION
Licensed family providers may care for a maximum of six children (including the caregivers). Family child care providers often make the decisions for their own family setting, allowing for a more personalized approach to care. They may have flexible hours and consistent adult relationships.

ADVANTAGES
Licensed family providers are regulated by the state, ensuring a safe and high-quality environment. They can provide a more intimate, family-like atmosphere, and may offer extended hours and consistent adult relationships.

DISADVANTAGES
Licensing requirements may be time-consuming. Providers must maintain a safe environment, adhere to regulations, and provide a wide variety of materials and activities. Some may lack the resources to provide long-term care arrangements.

TEACHER INFORMATION
Child care centers provide care for more than eight children in a nonresidential setting. They offer structured schedules and planned activities, which may be beneficial for children of different ages. Many centers are designed to meet the needs of children with different schedules, including infant/toddler programs and day camps. Some centers also have special programs for children with special needs.

SERVICES TO OFFER
Opportunities for your child to socialize with peers are important. Teachers should offer planned activities with goals and objectives to meet the needs of children. Teachers should have access to varied materials and have a flexible hour schedule. Long-term care possibilities are essential, especially for infants. This setting should provide activities that encourage growth and development.
**FAMILY GROUP HOMES**

Similar to family child care homes; family group homes are operated by two providers who care for 7-12 children in a residential setting. Four of these children may be under two years of age.

**INHOME CARE**

A child care provider comes to your home on a regular basis to care for your children. A live-in or live-out provider resides in your home full or part time, with set hours available to you for child care. Parents can recruit inhome care on their own or contract with a nanny agency to locate a provider who meets the families specifications. Inhome child care is exempt from licensing.

No early morning organizing or transportation
Can arrange services to include housekeeping
Hours determined by family
May work well for families with more than one child
Parent has a greater degree of control as "employer"
Keeps child in a familiar setting

Some loss of privacy
Legal and financial responsibilities
Requires recruitment skills or use of nanny agencies, which add additional costs
Can isolate children from socialization opportunities
Levels of provider competence vary greatly

**SHARED CARE**

Shared Care is an arrangement in which you share cost for the hiring of an inhome caregiver with another family. The provider often divides time between residents. This type of care is exempt from licensing.

Inhome benefits are obtained at a reduced cost
Some control over ages and natures of other children
Children have two care environments
Shared responsibility for learning activities

Requires additional organizational activities to meet the needs of two families
Legal and financial responsibilities
May be difficult to find a provider who would accept this arrangement

**CARE BY RELATIVES**

Care by relatives is considered to be a type of legally exempt child care. The person caring for the child is a relative of the family.

The caregiver may feel more personal responsibility and love toward the child
The child may feel more at ease
It is more of a family setting
Small group size

Not subject to licensing requirements
Family disagreements could create problems

Licensing mainly monitors environment, not program characteristics
Child must be transported from home
Increased exposure to illness
May not have planned activities or a wide variety of materials
Environment may restrict active play