

# Ohio Family Child Care Work Group

## The Ohio *Family Child Care Workgroup* recommends: **“Top Ten” Tips for Parents**

choosing child care. This list informs parents of Ohio child care rules and resources.

For more information contact:

OCCRRA the Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association  
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Or contact your local CCR&R agency

- **Know the Types of Care:** Ohio Law defines "child day care" as attending to the needs of children outside of school hours, by persons other than their parents or guardians, on a less than twenty four hour basis. Some types of child care must be regulated in Ohio; other types of child care may operate without a license. To learn about the different choices, go to. <http://ifs.ohio.gov/cdc/page2.stm>
- **Start Early in Your Child Care Search:** Child Care providers say start at least 3 months before you need care to plan, meet with providers, and interview your final choices. There is more need than openings and you should not be surprised with possible waiting lists.
- **Know Who To Turn To:** Do you know your resources? Get to know the role of the Child Care Resource & Referral Agency in your area. Also familiarize learn the roles, resources, and responsibilities of the county and state Departments of Job & Family Services.  
[http://ifs.ohio.gov/families/child\\_care/index.stm](http://ifs.ohio.gov/families/child_care/index.stm)
- **Know How to Recognize Quality Care:** Know what questions to ask and what to look for when interviewing providers including number of children per adult, caregiver training/experience, whether the program is accredited. For more information from a trained child care counselor contact [www.occrra.org](http://www.occrra.org) or contact your local Child Care Resource & Referral agency or the County Department of Job and Family Services.
- **Look for good health & safety practices:** Are outlets covered? Do you see fire extinguisher/smoke detectors? Are hands washed often? Does everyone have their own utensils and a separate resting space? Are children well supervised?
- **Be Aware of the Consumer Provisions of House Bill 11:** House Bill 11 was enacted in May of 2005 requiring child care providers to tell parents about a death or serious injury to children that required a hospital stay of over 24hrs. Parents have rights under this legislation to view county and state child care inspection reports.



- **There is a Big Difference Between a Child Care Provider and a Babysitter.** Child care providers have made a profession of caring for your child. Many have years of experience and training in the latest standards regarding health, safety, developmental needs of your child.
- **Your Rights as a Child Care Consumer.** You should be aware of the provider's policies and your right to accept or not accept them in making your child care choice. Some policies may include: visitation, absence, discipline, napping, and meals. View inspection reports often.
- **You Have Responsibilities Too:** Caring for your child involves a partnership between you and your provider, so talk with your provider about things that affect your child. Providers appreciate that parents pay on time, pick up as scheduled, keeping sick children at home, and telling them when your address or phone number changes. It is important that the provider know the name and phone number of your child's doctor.
- **Family Child Care Home Businesses are the Preferred Care Settings:** Did you know that more families choose family child care home businesses over any other type of child care setting? The child care industry in Ohio consists of over 57,000 professionals in centers and in homes. As a professional in this career it is the provider's job to give children safe and nurturing care.
- **Know How to Spot Health & Safety Risks:** Steps are being taken in Ohio to find situations that put children at risk. Children are most at risk when there isn't enough supervision when they are playing, eating and sleeping, or in a vehicle. In other words, children need close supervision at all times. Ohio has designated some "Serious Risk Rules" that are so important that every parent should know. Parents should report when rules are not followed. To learn more about Serious Risk Rules, call **1-866-886-3537**. or go to: [http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/docs/rules\\_bullet\\_format.pdf](http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/docs/rules_bullet_format.pdf) .

Selecting child care setting doesn't have to be so confusing. This tip sheet was created with you in mind. Our goal is to provide clarity as you make a decision to select a provider for you child. This is one of the most important choices you will make as a parent and the Ohio Family Childcare Workgroup and Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association are here to assist you. A more informed parent can make a decision in the best interest of their children.



*In September, 2003 the Child Care Advisory Council of the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services and the Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA) convened the Family Child Care Home Business Workgroup. Over the course of five months, a group of family child care home business professionals, state and county agency staff, child care resource & referral organization staff, early childhood professionals and parents met together and by phone to develop a set of short term (1 year), and long-term (5 year) recommendations. The twenty-nine workgroup members focused on protecting the health and safety of children in care and improving the quality of their early learning opportunities.*

*The Workgroup developed recommendations to improve both the regulatory system and the supports and incentives of family child care home businesses. This meant reviewing the current system of certification, a registration process, or other states' legislation as well as creating a vision with possibilities not yet discussed or explored in Ohio.*

*The workgroup was facilitated by the National Child Care Information Center (NCCIC) which provides technical support to state agencies administering child care regulation and funding. NCCIC staff gathered resource materials, conducted research and facilitated Workgroup meetings. The Final Recommendations Report was completed and delivered in December, 2005 and was recognized and supported by the Child Care Advisory Council. The final report was passed to the Director of ODJFS for consideration, and now the work continues toward prioritizing and implementing recommendations.*