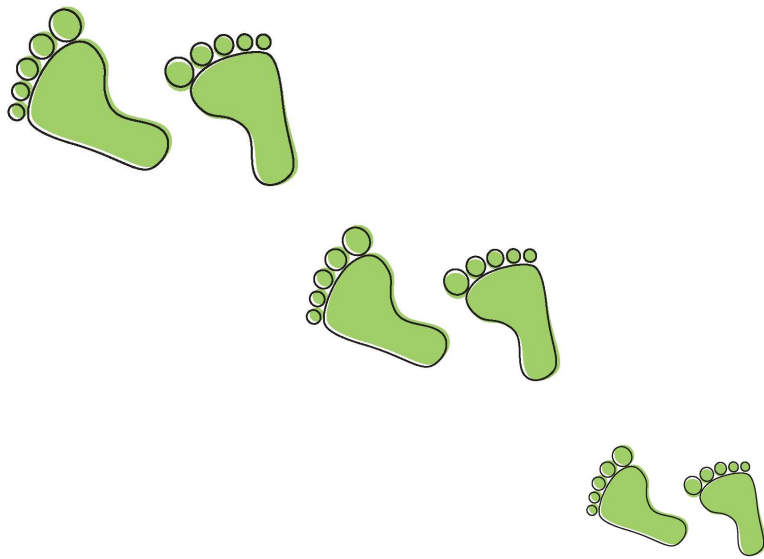


# What To Look For When Making a Quality Family Child Care Choice



*"Take a step grow with us"*

**Family and Child Care Connections**

*promoting quality in regulated family child care*

**(709)754-7090**

# Family and Child Care Connections

is a family resource centre located at # 50 Pippy Place, Unit 22

Drop by and visit our Family Resource Centre Programs.

## We offer:

- Drop-in Playgroups for parents and their young children
- Parent and Child Care Provider Workshops
- Parenting Programs
- Resource/Toy/Equipment lending library
- Current information on early childhood learning and child care and other parenting topics

## Call our Family Child Care Agency for information on:

- The Family Child Care Registry
- Agency approved family child care homes
- Family Child Care Training
- How to become an agency approved family child care provider
- The benefits of becoming an agency approved family child care provider
- Child Care Provider and children's playgroups
- Using our toy/equipment /resources lending library
- Professional development opportunities
- The CUPW member child care subsidy that is available to CUPW members



## Take a step grow with us

Our programs and services are available to all parents, community and CUPW Members at no cost

Our winter and fall playgroup schedule is\* Tues. & Thurs. for the general public - 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

\* Wed. for child care providers - 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**Telephone (709)754-7090**

*Family and Child Care Connections is jointly funded through the National Child Benefit with the provincial government of Newfoundland and Labrador and through the CUPW Child Care Fund.*

# What is a Family Child Care Agency?

- ▶ A family child care agency in Newfoundland and Labrador, is a not-for-profit organization which recruits, screens, supports and monitors family child care providers.
- ▶ A family child care agency approves family child care providers and acts as a registry for families seeking child care in these family child care homes.
- ▶ A family child care provider cares for other people's children in the provider's home. In a licensed or approved family child care home, an individual is permitted to care for up to six children.

*Family and Child Care Connection's* is a family resource centre. Our Family Child Care Agency is licensed under the Child Care Services Act, 1999. This means that we are licensed to recruit, approve, monitor and support family child care providers wishing to be affiliated with our agency.

We provide training and on-going professional development for family child care providers to promote the enhancement of quality child care.

We believe in quality child care and support each family child care provider in providing quality.

# How Important is a Child Care Provider?

A warm, committed and skilled child care provider makes a big difference to a child's early development.

## **The Child Care Provider's Contribution**

Research shows that a good child care provider is the most important element in quality child care. Providing quality child care requires substantial knowledge and practical skills. A child care provider who is trained in early learning and child care contributes effectively in shaping your child's social, physical, emotional and cognitive development.

### **A good child care provider:**

- ☺ is caring, nurturing and sensitive
- ☺ plans a daily, age-appropriate program emphasizing cooperative play, problem solving and independence
- ☺ respects all children
- ☺ helps children feel good about themselves
- ☺ gives children individual attention
- ☺ encourages children to learn through play
- ☺ guides children's behaviour positively and assists a child to cope in difficult situations
- ☺ is knowledgeable about child development and is responsive to children's needs
- ☺ develops common goals and communicates daily with parents



The following is a list of many questions that parents may choose to ask when making a quality family child care choice. This list may not be complete or you may wish to use only some of the suggestions that will best suit your child care needs..



### Child Care Provider's Experience

- ☺ What experience, training and qualifications does the child care provider have in working with children? Does she/he have training in CPR and First Aid?
- ☺ What is the child care provider's philosophy around his/her child care practices?
- ☺ Are there at least two references that can be provided to you?
- ☺ Is there a variety of activities and do they meet the developmental needs of each child?
- ☺ Is there a substitute available during days that the child care provider is unable to be with the children? Will you get to meet the substitute. Are there other adults that will be in the home during child care hours?
- ☺ Is the child care provider with a licensed family child care agency or does she/he have an individual license?
- ☺ How many other children does the provider have in their child care environment and what are the ages of these children?
- ☺ How long has the child care provider been doing child care and for how long does she/he plan to continue family child care?

## Business Policies

- ☺ What is the schedule for fees? How does the child care provider expect to be paid?
  - ☺ Is there a contract available to help clarify the child care policies and the agreements made between you and the child care provider?
  - ☺ Does this policy discuss such things as:
    - ★ is there a payment expected for overtime or lateness?
    - ★ do I pay for the days my child is not attending?
    - ★ do I pay for days there is no child care available?
    - ★ does the provider use his/her own transportation or is there other transportation used?
    - ★ are there days scheduled when there will be no child care available?
    - ★ what are the health care policies such as when should my child not attend?
- Is there a policy regarding emergencies? What kind of child health information does the child care provider need? Does the provider give medication?



## Parent Involvement

- ☺ Is there an orientation before my child begins?
- ☺ Does the provider have an open door policy?(parents being able to visit at any time within reason)
- ☺ Am I welcome to partake in activities?
- ☺ Are my ideas welcome? Are there other ways that parents can get involved in their child's child care day?
- ☺ How does the child care provider communicate the child's activities during the day?

## Space, Health and Safety

- ☺ Is there adequate outdoor play space?
- ☺ How often do the children go outside on a daily basis? Do they go on field trips?
- ☺ Is the outdoor play space fully enclosed with a fence? Can the whole area be seen all the times?
- ☺ Is there full supervision at all times inside and outside?
- ☺ If there is play equipment, is it in good repair and are the surfaces below safe?
- ☺ What methods does the provider use to protect the children from harmful sun rays?
- ☺ Is the home safe for the children? (ie: stairways protected with rails and slip-proof surfaces , outlets covered, furniture does not have sharp edges, etc.) Does the provider do a safety check of the home and the outside?
- ☺ Does the child care provider encourage the children to wash their hands after using the bathroom, playing outside and before eating? Does the child care provider wash her or his hands after toileting activities, blowing noses and before handling food?
- ☺ What type of meals and snacks are served and at what time of the day?
- ☺ Is there a nap time or quiet time daily?
- ☺ How does the provider meet the nutritional requirements of each child (especially with a fussy eater)?
- ☺ Is the child care provider careful about potential or confirmed allergies such as food allergies, pet allergies, or other environmental factors?



## Daily Activities

- ☺ What is a typical day? Does the daily schedule allow for free time and planned activities?
- ☺ Will I receive a daily report on my child ?
- ☺ Is there a daily balance of playtime, story time, activity time, and nap time or quiet time?
- ☺ Where are these activities located? Where is the napping area? Is the napping area comfortable and safe?
- ☺ What are the limits set on watching T.V. or other video type of activities?
- ☺ Are there opportunities for music experiences?
- ☺ Are there enough play, creative, imaginative, social, language and physical activities? Are activities appropriate for my child's age and ability?
- ☺ Does the child care provider provide activities that keep up with the children's changing interests?



## Guiding Children's Behaviours

- ☺ How does the child care provider manage a child's behaviour? Does she/he use positive communication as an effective technique when dealing with conflicting situations with a child or between children?
- ☺ Is the child care provider in agreement with me on what guidelines I would use when guiding my child's behaviour?
- ☺ Are the provider's limits clear, reasonable and consistent? Is there no physical or emotional punishment used?
- ☺ Does the provider positively re-direct the children?
- ☺ Is positive reinforcement used regularly?



## The Child Care Provider

- ☺ Does the child care provider have a positive outlook? Is she/he cheerful, flexible, understanding, patient and easy to communicate with?
- ☺ Is the child care provider a suitable role model for my child?
- ☺ Does the provider genuinely seem to like children? Do the provider and my child enjoy being with each other?
- ☺ Does the child care provider demonstrate an understanding of child development through her/his interaction with my child and through the daily activities provided?
- ☺ Does the child care provider get down to the child's eye level when speaking directly to her/him instead of continuously giving directions or correcting?
- ☺ Does the child care provider treat each child as an individual with dignity and respect?
- ☺ Does the child care provider smile, look at, talk with and listen to individual children?
- ☺ Does the provider greet your child and you in a warm and friendly manner each day to help you and your child feel welcome and secure?
- ☺ Are children's needs met quickly even during hectic times?
- ☺ Are the children comforted when necessary?
- ☺ What does the child care provider do when a child is crying?
- ☺ Is the child care provider sensitive to a child's immediate needs?
- ☺ Does the child care provider encourage identifying emotions?
- ☺ Does the child care provider encourage sharing?
- ☺ How does the child care provider deal with physically aggressive behaviour?
- ☺ Does the child care provider encourage sensitivity to each other?

- ☺ Does the child care provider encourage independence, exploring, creativity within the child care environment?
- ☺ Are the children constantly supervised?
- ☺ Does the child care provider communicate with you easily and in a positive manner?
- ☺ Does the child care provider stay abreast with updated information on their profession and child care issues.

### The Child Care Environment

- ☺ Are the other children in the home happy and relaxed?
- ☺ How do the children interact with each other?
- ☺ Is the program and the child care provider responsive to the varied cultural, ethnic, gender backgrounds of children and families?
- ☺ Is the child care provider respectful of my family's lifestyle and values?
- ☺ Does the child care provider celebrate holidays and other special days with the children?



### Children With Special Needs

- ☺ Will the child care provider meet my child's special needs (nutrition, medical, developmental, cultural, etc.)
- ☺ Can my child maintain a special diet here?
- ☺ Does the provider have an inclusive attitude with my child's special needs?

# What is quality child care?

## It's a Fact

High quality child care plays a positive, long-lasting role in the overall development of all children.

## Does this child care program provide quality child care?

Whether child care is in a home or in a large group setting, it has common features such as:

- ♡ a nurturing, warm environment
- ♡ small group sizes to ensure children
- ♡ a program that is appropriate to the children's ages, and is stimulating and enjoyable.
- ♡ age appropriate toys and materials that encourage learning through play.
- ♡ inclusive of all children
- ♡ respect and appreciation for individual diversity.
- ♡ A safe and hygienic setting
- ♡ nutritious snacks & meals

## A good relationship with parents means

- ♡ the program's child care philosophy is clear and discussed with parents.

- ♡ parents are welcome to visit the program anytime.
- ♡ parents and child care providers understand their respective roles and responsibilities
- ♡ parents receive daily reports about their child.
- ♡ there is a willingness to listen to and act on parent's concerns.

## Child Care Providers are the key to quality

You should look for:

- ♡ Well qualified, experienced child care providers.
- ♡ Child care providers who relate to children with sensitivity, understanding and warmth.
- ♡ Child care providers who have worked in a centre or provided care in their home for a long time so that children can form stable and secure relationship with them
- ♡ Adequate compensation and working conditions to attract and keep good child care providers.

**Everyone benefits from high quality child care**

