

Taking Care of Other People's Children is an Important Business

Some people are suited for the job and others are not. As a licensed child care provider you will need to have the skills to care for children on a daily basis. We want to help you decide whether or not being a licensed child care provider is a good occupation for you.

Benefits of Becoming a Licensed Child Care Provider

- Offers assurance to parents that your facility is regulated and you have received appropriate training approved by your local county social services.
- Play a key role in your community by offering a needed service.
- If you have children, they will benefit by learning to share and care for others.
- Increase your skills with resources and training opportunities that are available to help you do your job.
- Expand your tax deductions by reporting expenses for toys, equipment and supplies, as well as some of the upkeep on your home.
- Be your own boss, set your own schedule and earn an income at home.

Qualities of Successful Child Care Providers

- Enjoy working with others
- Energetic
- Enthusiastic
- Self-Motivated
- Nurturing
- Creative
- Organized
- Good Communicator
- Curious
- Flexible
- Commitment

There are many things to consider when deciding whether to start a licensed child care business. The information on this web page is designed to provide some basic information so you can make your decision with confidence.

More About Licensing. . .

In North Dakota, a provider must be licensed if caring for more than three infants (0-2 years) or five children (0-12 years). Providers must count their own children who are under 12 years of age. Homes in North Dakota caring for fewer than what is stated

above are not required to be licensed; however, they are encouraged to become licensed. After you are licensed, you will need a minimum of 9 to 10 hours of annual training, depending on your type of license. Licensing regulations may be subject to local ordinances.

Your County Licensor determines the maximum number of children you can care for. However, you may want to consider starting with fewer children until you feel competent, then gradually increase to your maximum capacity.

When developing a child care program check the following:

- **Zoning**

Contact local authorities on zoning laws, restrictions and requirements. Familiarize yourself with “change of use” guidelines and how they affect fire and life safety requirements.

- **Building Codes**

Understand capacity, utility codes, access and state and local codes.

- **Fire Codes**

Contact the local fire department for requirements on fire inspections and codes for extinguishers, alarms, exit signs, sprinklers, fire walls and evacuation plans.

- **Health Department**

Contact your local public health office at www.health.state.nd.us/localhd to get information on water, sewage, ventilation, food service and environmental health requirements and inspections.

Considerations for Licensed Child Care in Your Home

Are you physically and emotionally capable?

You need to be prepared to be attentive to children’s needs for 8 to 10 hours a day and be physically capable of lifting children. It also helps to be self-motivated and have good communication skills

Is there a need for child care in your area?

You will want to tailor your business to meet the needs of families in your area. To find out about the supply of and demand for child care in your neighborhood or town, contact your Child Care Resource and Referral office.

What impact will your business have on your family?

Since child care happens in your home, your children and spouse may find that their home no longer seems their own. A successful in-home business starts with communication with your family.

How do parents access your licensed child care service?

You will want to contact a Child Care Resource and Referral office as soon as you are licensed to get your business information into the referral database. By doing so, your program will be promoted through the referral service. Your county licensor will also inform Child Care Resource and Referral office that you have become licensed.

ND CCR&R Child Care Resource & Referral

When parents call the Child Care Resource and Referral office looking for licensed child care, they will discuss with a staff member their family's preference for the location, hours of operation, number and ages of children and special program services. The family's care preferences will be entered into a computer that generates the names and phone numbers of the licensed child care providers who match the family's specific requests. The licensed child care providers' names will be given to parents using the referral service. As the consumer shopping for child care, the parents will use the list to contact the licensed child care providers of their choosing, schedule interviews and pre-visits.

There is no fee for licensed child care providers to participate in the Child Care Referral System!

How much training do you need and how do you access training?

Each licensed home child care provider, dependent on the type of license, is required to obtain a minimum of either 9 or 10 hours of county approved training each year. The total number of hours depends on your type of license. Your county licenser will further discuss this at orientation.

Child Care Resource and Referral will keep you updated on the many training opportunities available.

Training will help you:

- Help children develop self-control and empathy for others
- Plan appropriate activities to promote children's learning
- Maintain a high level of positive verbal interaction with children
- Facilitate the development of self-esteem in children
- Help children resolve conflicts by problem solving
- Respond promptly and directly to children's needs

Where do you find resources and support for your new in home licensed child care business?

Your Child Care Resource and Referral office can help you in many ways, including:

- Business Center
- Lending Libraries.
- Data on current demand for child care to assist in program planning
- When available, information on start up grants and training scholarships
- Assistance in filling vacancies when enrolled in the referral system

What to do if licensed child care is for you?

If you would like assistance in the initial decision making process to decide if this is career for you, contact your Child Care Resource and Referral office. The staff will answer questions regarding budgets, planning daily activities, setting up your business, marketing and more.

ND CCR&R Child Care Resource & Referral

Your local county social service licenser is available to discuss rules and regulations as well as local ordinance requirements for your in-home business.

Your county licenser and Child Care Resource and Referral office will work together to assist you in your licensed child care business.

Leading the Way for Child Care in North Dakota

Eastern North Dakota 800-941-7003 or 218-299-7026 ~ Western North Dakota 888-223-1510 or 701-223-1510

www.ndchildcare.org