

Is Family Child Care a Good Fit for Me?

For some people, taking care of young children is a dream come true. For others, it can be a nightmare. Use this self assessment tool to help you think about your personality and your situation, and whether you would be likely to succeed as a Family Child Care Provider.

DIRECTIONS: Think about each trait and how you would rate yourself. Then put an X at the place in the box that shows how much you feel you have that trait. For example, if you strongly agree, put an X on the far left. Put your X on the far right if you strongly disagree or in the middle if you are neutral.

	Strongly Agree	Neutral	Strongly Disagree
1. I enjoy children very much, and think I could work well with them hour after hour.			
2. I am a flexible person who can usually figure a way out of any problem.			
3. I have good common sense, and handle emergencies well.			
4. I am generally warm and affectionate.			
5. I am fairly organized, and able to keep financial records.			
6. I do not mind my house being messy sometimes. I can put the children's needs before my housework.			
7. I am willing to rearrange the furniture in some rooms of my house to accommodate toys and play equipment.			
8. I tend to take life lightly, and have a good sense of humor.			
9. I usually appreciate my own accomplishments, even if others do not.			
10. I am in good health and have lots of energy.			
11. A home base business such as this is acceptable to each member of my family.			
12. I would enjoy talking to parents about their children and our day together.			
13. I usually speak up when I have a problem with someone.			
14. I accept children as they are, and feel a deep commitment to them and their parents.			
15. I am able to guide and discipline children kindly and effectively without the use of physical or punitive means.			
16. I expect to offer this service for at least 2 years and will be able to arrange substitute care when needed.			
17. I can handle the financially difficult times, or I have financial security to fall back on for a few months while I get started.			

How to Evaluate Your Responses:

If nearly all of your X's are on the left side of the page (under agree), then you will probably find Family Child Care a very satisfying job. If on the other hand, many of your X's are on the right side of the page, you may find that this is not the right job for you. If you have a few disagrees, but they are not strong ones, then you might decide that you can make special efforts in those areas.