



Discount Day Care? Beware!

The cheapest care in town may not be the best for your child's development, safety, and well being. A friend or neighbor network can be a wonderful support, but there is a difference between friends and neighbors care, and a business. Someone caring for children on a regular basis as a business may be caring for too many children, and may not be a safe choice.

If you are considering an unregulated program here are some questions to ask:

1. **Why are they choosing not to be licensed?** Being licensed can bring over \$100 per month per child in additional quality support and nutrition to the program. It also ensures you that basic health and safety standards are understood and met.
2. **How many children are being cared for at any one time?** See the chart on page 13 in the quality early learning booklet to see if the program is operating illegally and with unsafe numbers of children per adult.
3. **Who are all the adults in the home?** One of the main reasons people do not become licensed is that one of the adults in the home can not pass the background check.
4. **Do they have training in SIDS, Shaken Baby, pediatric CPR, First Aid, positive guidance and child development?** Babies and toddlers are the most vulnerable, and they can not tell you if something is wrong. When your provider has a good support network and training, your child is more likely to be well cared for.

If you have any concerns or questions about your provider, call the Child Care Licensing Office at 465-4756.