



Families and Child Care Working Together

When families arrange for child care, they agree to share responsibility for their child's well-being with a child care provider. It is important that the child care provider is someone you trust and that you see as a partner working with you for the benefit of your child. The relationship should be one of mutual respect, trust and cooperation.

When you choose a child care provider who recognizes the importance of families and takes a genuine interest in your child, it will be easy for you to be open and honest about your expectations.

Building Relationships

Since this is an important relationship outside of the family, a special bond may develop between your child and the child care provider. You can also help your child have a positive experience by acknowledging and supporting that relationship. Take the time to communicate with the staff or home provider every day. To help develop and maintain a good relationship with your child care provider, take the following steps:

1. Clarify Your Expectations

It is important for you and your child care provider to clarify your mutual child care expectations. It will be helpful to discuss your expectations with the child care provider as you review the contract, as well as the policies and procedures. Confirm additional expectations and arrangements by adding them to the contract or letter of agreement. It can save unnecessary misunderstandings in the future.

2. Share Information

Regular communication between the family and child care provider is an essential part of quality child care. It is important to take every opportunity to share information about your child with your child care provider. You will also want to ensure that you have the opportunity to hear about your child's development from the child care provider.

Allow enough time in the morning and at the end of the day to exchange information.

This will help you and your child care provider to understand the needs of your child.

For example, tell your child care provider if your child had a poor night's sleep, seems to be eating very little, or has had a change to their regular routine.

3. Discuss Concerns

You have spent a lot of time and energy searching for a child care provider to meet the needs of your family. If you or your child care provider have concerns about your child, it is important to discuss them promptly. When too much time passes, problems can grow bigger and become more serious. Ensure you talk openly about your child with the provider. When you do have a concern, take some time to think carefully about the concern and make an appointment to discuss it with your child care provider. You and your child care provider have a valuable relationship, and can work toward reaching a solution together.

4. Maintain the Partnership

A willingness to share information and listen carefully is the key to maintaining a good relationship with your child care provider. While it is important for you to find a child care provider who takes a genuine interest in your child, it is also important for your child care provider to feel respected and appreciated. When you look upon your child care provider as a committed, competent partner in your child's care and express your appreciation, you are helping to create and maintain a higher quality of care for your child.

The Importance of the EarlyON Child and Family Centres

EarlyON Child and Family Centres provide an opportunity for parents and caregivers to obtain information about programs and services that are available for children 0 – 6 years. Parents and caregivers can use the centres to meet and talk to early years professionals, other parents and caregivers in the community. EarlyON provides a selection of free and registered programs which include: drop-ins, parent and tot programs, parent education and information, resource library, early learning and literacy programs. For further information call:

EarlyON – Oakville	905-849-6366
EarlyON – Burlington	905-632-9377
EarlyON – Milton	905-876-1244
EarlyON – Georgetown, Acton	905-873-2960

For more information, please contact the Child Care Directory and Information Line at childcaresearch@thrc.ca or 905-875-0235.