



Choosing a family day care educator

When learning about the types of early childhood education and care service to choose for your child it is often through word of mouth, a website and social media recommendations.

Not surprisingly though, is that parents rely most strongly on their own judgement, which is most important.

You know your child best and any specific priorities for your family so it's important to trust your instincts and feel ok to ask questions. It's important to visit the family day care educator and see the learning environment and home indoors and outdoors.

Questions to ask your educator:

- What hours do you work?
- Will I be able to pick my child up any time?
- Are there any other adults present during the day? Can I meet them?
- What do you recommend for settling my child into care?
- What are your fees? Will I be charged for public holidays or when my child is not there?
- Can I change the days of care?
- How many children do you / can you care for?
- What are your skills and experience with children?
- What ages do you care for?
- Do you provide meals, nappies and hats or should I bring them from home?
- Where is your weekly meal plan? Do you let me know if it changes? Can I give ideas?
- How will I be notified if my child is unwell or has an accident?
- When do you close? (During school holidays? How much notice do you provide?)
- Who cares for my child if you are unwell or on holidays?
- What are your practices around sleep and rest, hygiene, medication and sun protection?
- Where will my child sleep / rest?
- How will I know that my child's learning and development will be encouraged?
- What documentation do you provide daily about routines and about their progress?
- Do you take the children on excursions? (By car / walks? How much notice is given?)
- Has the service been quality rated, and if so, what is the service's rating?
- How often does the family day care service staff visit? What do they do to support you, my child and family?