

Talking Points About Family Child Care*



Intimacy

"In family child care, the ratio of children to adults is generally smaller than you would find in a child care center. We're able to offer individual attention in a relaxed, nurturing environment."

Choice

"Family child care comes in many sizes - homes with just a handful of children and others that accept more children and are staffed by several adults. Different providers offer a wide range of teaching styles and activities for parents to choose from."

Flexibility

"We know how hard parents work to juggle child care and make ends meet. We try our best to be flexible and available when work schedules change or crises arise."

Stability

"We've chosen family child care as a career because we love children and enjoy playing a part in their development and growth. We're not going anywhere, so you don't have to worry about 'turnover.'"

Continuity

"In family child care, children get continuity with one caring adult who sees them every day. The stability can really make a difference in kids' lives, especially when they're going through a rough time at home or at school."

Ties to cultural heritage

"The Bay Area is home to thousands of family child care providers who speak Spanish, Cantonese, Hindi and just about every other language on earth. For parents who are raising bilingual, bi-cultural children, family child care is often the perfect fit."

Mixed age groups

"In many family child care homes, older children model learning and social skills for younger ones, and in the process they learn how to be patient and creative in steering a child's attention. It makes for a lively learning environment where different stages of development are going on at the same time."

Special needs

"Many child care providers are equipped to provide specialized care to children with special needs."

School Readiness

"High quality family child care providers offer a preschool curriculum wrapped around a full day quality day care program, helping to prepare young children on the road to a successful scholastic career."

Family child care providers are a critical resource for families in Alameda County.

"In cities across the county, the demand for child care exceeds the supply. Licensed family child care providers are ready and able to help fill this gap with high quality home-based child care for children of all ages from infants and toddlers to preschoolers and school-age children."

"Family child care providers are small business owners who make a significant contribution to our regional economy. More than \$84 million in revenue is generated each year by family child care homes in Alameda County alone."

"High quality family child care providers are well educated, understand child development and offer a preschool curriculum that helps prepare children for kindergarten and later school success."

*From Alameda County Family Child Care Coalition Media Advocacy Training Tool Kit