



Interviewing a Caregiver

How to Interview Caregivers

Step 1 - Information Interview

Gather information such as:

hours	tuition
sick policy	holidays
activities	discipline policy
provider's child care philosophy	



Who should attend? All parents or guardians should be present so that everyone understands the agreements made between parents and provider.

Interviews with **home child care providers** should include the provider's spouse and other members of the family.

List possible questions to ask before the interview.

References from other parents should be received.

Step 2 - Initial Observation

On Your First Visit:

- ✓Go without your child.
- ✓Visit only places you are seriously considering.
- ✓Watch the provider's interaction with the children.
- ✓Make notes and save questions until after the observation.
- ✓An hour is an appropriate amount of time to observe.

Step 3 - Observing With Your Child



Before your final decision, observe your child's interaction with the teacher and the children.

On this visit:

- ✓Stay long enough for your child to feel comfortable and to get to know the environment.
- ✓Talk with the provider, and evaluate the situation.

Remember...

You have the right to do a background check on care givers and providers. Contact your local Child Care Licensing Office.

Much of this information was provided by the City of Boulder, Children's Services.

A project of The Florida Partnership for Parent Involvement

Center of Excellence ♦ Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute ♦ Florida's Children's Forum
Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters ♦ Hillsborough County Head Start ♦ Hillsborough County Even Start

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For more information contact:

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The Center for Parent Involvement (FCPI) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education; Goals 2000, Educate America Act from 1994-1999. Guided by an advisory board of parents and professionals, the FCPI's goal was to tap the power of parents.

The FCPI gathered information on parent needs, coordinated the information, and created a series of resources organized by theme, including fact sheets for parents and professionals, "Beyond the Basics" resources, and resource identification lists. Many of the resources have been translated into Spanish language versions, and every effort has been made to preserve the meaning and flavor of the original English documents. This series of materials provides a wealth of current information for both parents and providers; the complete set of resources can be obtained in PDF format on the Department of Child and Family Studies Website at www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi. The staff of the FCPI are hopeful that their work will continue to help children get ready to learn for many years to come.

The series' themes include:

- Family Empowerment
- Parent Involvement
- Parenting Support
- School Readiness
- Violence in the Lives of Children
- Transition to Kindergarten

The Center was one component of a project led by Hillsborough County Center of Excellence in collaboration with the Department of Child & Family Studies at USF's de la Parte Institute and the Florida Children's Forum. Other project partners include HIPPIY (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters), Hillsborough County Head Start and Hillsborough County Even Start. For more information about these projects, call 813.974.4612.

Family Empowerment Series, Parent Tip Sheets, #5: Transition: Interviewing a Caregiver

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