

How to Start a Family Day Care Home

Quality child care programs are needed by many of Georgia's families. Parents and Guardians desire pleasant, clean, safe and secure environments for their children when they are unable to provide care themselves throughout the day. Are you interested in providing care in your home for children? Do you feel you have a safe environment? How do you feel about caring for children for hours each day? If you are interested in providing care for no more than 6 children for pay and enjoy working with children you may be considering opening a family day care home. The following information will take you through the process of registering to become a family day care provider.

- ❑ The first step is to check with your local fire, building, and zoning office. Each county is different and may require that you have local approvals.
- ❑ The next step is to contact the [Child Care Resource and Referral Agency](#) that serves the area where you plan to start your child care program. Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (R&R's) exist to strengthen, support and recruit potential child care providers. They offer professional development training; curriculum and learning center resources, toy and equipment lending libraries, and they also provide technical assistance. The R&Rs operate a telephone referral service for parents to refer them to licensed and/or registered programs in their areas. Many of the R&R's offer classes specifically for people who want to start a child care business.
- ❑ When you call your local R&R, ask the R&R staff member about starting a child care program. The staff member will be able to give you demographic information about the county that will help you as you open and market your business. For example, the R&R staff can tell you how many providers are located in your area, what the average cost of child care is for different ages of children in the area, as well as other information that may be of interest to you. The R&R's have a variety of resources to assist you.
- ❑ To receive a family day care packet, review the [price list](#) and if you decide to register to become a family day care home provider, you will need to have a money order made payable to the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL). You may take or mail your money order to your local [Child Care Resource and Referral Agency](#) and pick up your application packet. Your application packet will include a family day care application, criminal record forms, Rules and Regulations for Family Day Care Homes, as well as a technical assistance packet.
- ❑ The State of Georgia requires that family day care providers attain and maintain current Basic First Aid and Infant/Child CPR training. Other training is required in addition to CPR and First Aid and you will need to take ten hours of training in regards to child development and children's safety and health each registration year. Remember, the R&R's offer training and you can find other training events and locations by visiting the web site that displays the quarterly statewide Training Calendar, www.caresolutions.com
- ❑ Once you receive your criminal record check clearance by mail (and all other adults in the home have satisfactory local GCIC results), a certificate of registration will be generated through the family day care unit and sent out to your home. It will take a minimum of 90 days to receive a statement of clearance or unsatisfactory from the criminal records unit. Once the Department has been notified that you and your residents have cleared the criminal record unit your certificate of registration will be processed and sent to your mailing address.
- ❑ Once you are registered to operate a family day care home, the R&R can add you to their database and tell parents about your program.