

Providers' Frequently Asked Questions

I've heard a little about the FCC program. What are the benefits of being an FCC provider? As an Air Force Family Child Care (FCC) provider, you have the opportunity to stay at home with your own children, contribute to the family income, and operate your own business. FCC providers are secure in the knowledge that they are offering a valuable service to AF communities!

Is FCC a full-time job or is it possible to work part-time—what are my options? You may choose to provide part-time, weekend, evening, or before/after-school care; or you may combine any of these options with traditional full-time care. FCC is proud to offer Expanded Child Care, specialty care programs that can help you develop a strong customer base. These programs—Extended Duty Care (EDC), Returning Home Care (RHC), ~~Military III (MIFCC)~~, and ~~Missile Care (MC)~~—help parents when their need is greatest. This makes you, the provider, the one parents turn to when they think of child care.

I'm a new parent. I'd like to stay at home but also continue to work. Is FCC a professional option for me? Absolutely! With so many choices, you can tailor the level of care you provide. And you'll find that small mixed-aged groups foster accelerated learning and social development in young children.

I live in a civilian community near the base. Is it possible for me to become an FCC provider? Yes. If you are a spouse of an ID card holder, you are eligible to become an affiliate provider. Affiliate providers must be licensed by the State, county, or country that has child care licensing jurisdiction.

What if I PCS? Can I become an FCC provider at my new base? Definitely! The best thing about becoming an FCC provider is that your FCC credentials follow you wherever you go, making your home-based business portable. When you PCS, the FCC office can help you transfer to another installation. A copy of your file will be express-mailed to the FCC office at the new installation.

What are the qualifications for becoming an FCC provider? To become an FCC provider you must be 18 years of age or older and able to read, speak, and write English. You must be in good mental and physical health and willing to undergo a comprehensive background check (including family members). Providers must obtain liability insurance, be willing and able to complete training, and have a desire to provide care in a safe, healthy, nurturing environment that promotes children's development.

Is training provided? Yes, you will receive training at no cost! You will undergo extensive orientation training in child development, nutrition, health, and safety guidelines. You also will become certified in first aid, CPR, and food handling. With the support of the FCC Coordinator, you will complete additional training relevant to caring for children to maintain your license.



family child care
Air Force Services
A Home Away From Home

424-8104 or 4596



What is Family Child Care?

Caring for children in your home is no longer referred to as 'babysitting.' It is a growing profession for those who genuinely care about children and who want to embark in their own home based business.

A home child care provider ensures that children receive care in a nurturing, safe environment. Children are given opportunities to develop their social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills with the assistance of their caregiver.

A family child care (FCC) provider receives training on a consistent basis in all aspect of child development, as well as training in safety, positive guidance, food handling, and child abuse awareness and prevention.

With the growing number of families in which both parents are gainfully employed, the need for quality child care is in great demand. Parents rely on those who can provide their children with the kind of care they give their children at home.

There are many things for you to consider during the application and approval process. One of the most important things to think about is how your new business will impact your family.

Reasons to Become an FCC Provider

Everyone has their own reasons for wanting to become an FCC provider: a few are listed below.

1. To earn money while staying at home with your own children
2. To have your own business and be your own boss
3. To provide high quality, home-like child care for working parents
4. To provide healthy, supervised social experiences for your children.
5. To participate in the USDA program, and receive reimbursement for meals served to children in your care.

Before proceeding with the training and licensing procedures, however, it is worthwhile to consider some aspects of the career you are currently contemplating. Below is a list of questions to ask before moving forward.

1. Are you a healthy person physically and mentally?
2. Are you calm and clear-headed in an emergency or crisis?
3. Do you genuinely like children?
4. Are you willing to follow the regulations concerning preventative child abuse and positive guidance?



5. Are you open to attending training sessions that will help you learn new ways of thinking and working with children?
6. Will you be able to put special problems and concerns aside while you are caring for children?
7. Are you comfortable dealing with children's misbehavior?
8. Are you capable of reporting suspected child abuse, neglect, or overly harsh discipline applied to children in your care?
9. Are you aware parents may be delayed, and occasionally be late picking up children, leading to disrupted personal schedules?
10. Providing playmates for your own children may not solve any behavior problems that they may have at this time. The presence of other children may, indeed, aggravate these problems.
11. Do you understand that parents will depend on you to provide care for their children? Will you feel restricted by the need to schedule any visits from friends or relatives only after child care hours or by the fact that you cannot leave to shop or go visiting any time you wish, even if you have left a backup provider in charge?
12. Will you be very careful in selecting your backup provider, ensuring that they meet the criteria outlined by regulations, and leave children in his/her care only when you must leave for *necessary* absences (i.e. doctor appointments, etc.)?
13. Will you be able to plan your time so you can do household chores during non-child care hours?
14. Will you do your best to keep children safe, healthy, and happy while in your care?
15. Are you comfortable with unannounced inspections of your home from various base agencies including the FCC staff?

Family Issues

You need some family time to discuss such important issues. There are good reasons for you to talk to your family about providing child care in your home. Some concerns to discuss are:

1. The ways you and your spouse discipline your children might be very different from what regulations state a provider must do, and not do, with the children in care.
2. Many injuries to young children come from family carelessness with curling irons, clothes irons, medicine, weaponry, sharp household



- objects and other dangerous items. Your family will need to assist you in ensuring such items are put out of children's reach.
3. Adults, adolescents and school-agers other than family members should not have free access to the house while you are caring for children.
 4. In the military, people work at different times during the day, sometimes on different shifts. If any family member must sleep during the day or is chronically ill, be especially careful of the decision you are making about child care.
 5. There will be changes in your home such as the rearrangement of furniture, the addition of safety latches on your doors and cabinets, and finding new places for articles regularly used in the bathroom and kitchen.
 6. While providing child care, family members need to dress appropriately, and avoid overly casual dress such as bathrobes, scanty clothing or undergarments.
 7. Your family's schedule will be readjusted to accommodate the children in your care.
 8. Some portions of your home can be off-limits to day-care children. The choice of living space that should be retained for family use only, needs to be decided on
 9. Although the FCC, lending library benefit, and USDA program will offset many of your start-up and operational costs, you will still incur business expenses. Be sure to consider the additional wear and tear on furniture, carpet and walls as well.
 10. Use of the TV will be limited during child care hours, including soap operas, X or R rated videos, or some teenage videos which are not appropriate for young children.
 11. All pets must be segregated from the areas of the home in which children in care use.

These points and many others should be discussed with your family before deciding to pursue family child care. If you are comfortable with the lifestyle changes that will come into your life as a result of your new career, then by all means let us help you get started on your new business venture.