



Tips for the Child Care Provider

www.pammshouse.com

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Providing in-home child care is a daily challenge. At first

thought it seems simple: take care of children while their parents are at work, but the reality is there's so much more to this career. Child care providers must all of a sudden become a great communicator, tax expert, business executive, and referee. I've had ten years of trial and error and extensive research. Here's what works for me.

A good place to start is my website:

www.pammshouse.com. You would start by exploring my "Playroom". There you will find information about all aspects of providing child care.

Being Professional

Many times, child care providers are looked at as babysitters who just play with children all day. It's hard to be seen as a working professional, but there are many ways you can change that image.

What you wear during the day can be a big part of your professional image. Are you wearing sweats and stained T-shirts every day or are you dressing for success? I've found wearing scrubs are cool, comfortable, and professional.

Do you have a contract and handbook? Putting your policies in writing is professional and prevents misunderstandings in the future.

Having planned activities and/or a curriculum is a good way to add a professional aspect to your child care. It doesn't have to be elaborate or expensive (check out my "Resource Room" on my website for free ideas), but something other than free play and TV time all day.

Pamm's Quick Tips

- * Greet children and parents in a cheerful way each morning.
- * Plan a few activities for the day and plan your menu ahead of time.
- * Keep your schedule simple, but do things in the same order everyday.
- * Make things easy for the parents to sign in and out everyday. Keep a book or clipboard with the sign-in sheets on them in the same place all the time, within easy access of the parents.
- * Teach the children to clean up after themselves. I care for very young children and we have two clean-up times each day: before lunch and at 5pm. Before long they learn where everything goes and are a big help in the clean up.
- * I've heard that housework doubles for the child care provider. Become a good delegator and enlist your children and husband to help out with the housework. Having a housework schedule has been a big help to me.
- * Become a crock-pot cook. Warm vegetables and simple lunches in mini-crockpots for ready-to-go lunches. Make supper in your crockpot for your family and child care.
- * Find support. Either a friend, another mother or child care provider, or even internet friends. I find my Child Care Cubby Yahoo! group most valuable to vent or bounce ideas off of other child care providers.

Helpful Websites About Child Care

www.pammshouse.com -- Helpful information about all aspects of child care, homeschooling, family, and more!

groups.yahoo.com/group/ChildCareCubby -- An email group of child care providers. It's a great place to ask questions and bounce ideas off each other. We share recipes, tips, have Tax-Time Tuesdays, and more.

www.minutemenu.com/web/mmkids.html -- Minute Menu Kids; Software for Family Child Care Providers. You can try it free for 30 days. All data is stored on their server. Includes tax information and forms, child information, menus and meal counts, calendar, set up direct payments from parents, and so much more! Well worth the money!

aplaceofourown.org/ -- Website of the TV show, A Place of Our Own. It airs on PBS, KAET 8 Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays at 5am. I record it, then watch it during nap time. It's a very helpful program for people who care for children.

irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=98350,00.html -- IRS webpage to get a EIN: Employer ID Number. An EIN eliminates the need to give out your Social Security number to parents. It's free and can be done online.

www.firstconnections.nde.state.ne.us -- Free online child care training about infants and toddlers. It's very well done.

www.vistaprint.com -- Get top quality business cards for FREE! Just pay shipping. Can re-order business cards as many times as you like. They also have specials with other free products often: car magnets, stamps, post-its, labels, etc.

www.nfsmi.org/Information/cc_recipe_index_alpha.htm -- Huge database of USDA Child Care Recipes.

www.childcareland.com/free.html -- Child Care Land has a lot of resources. The link is to the huge list of free printables!

www.eichild.com/r_pages.cfm?ID=232 -- Free online label maker. Very helpful!

www.redleafinstitute.org/index.cfm -- Full of information and helpful resources for the child care provider.

www.blogger.com -- A blog is an excellent way to communicate with parents. I have done away with paper newsletters and update my blog with photos, menus, activities, announcements, etc. You can view my sample blog at: pammshousedemo.blogspot.com

<http://www.thedaycarelady.com/form.htm> -- The Daycare Lady has many forms and much more!

Topics Found on the Pamm's House Website
Picky Eaters, Toddler Discipline, FREE Toddler Curriculum, Infant Activities, Get Control of Your Housework, Crockpot Recipes, Plan Ahead Lunches, Menus, Homeschooling, Family, Bible Study, Weight Loss, Pet Information, and so much more!