



THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Licensed home child care programs at Family Day are a great option for families

Choosing child care is one of the most important decisions you will make as a parent. And, in today's market, licensed home child care is an increasingly popular choice.

Whether you work full-time, part-time, or irregular hours, home child care can be a great option for the flexibility, convenience, and family environment it provides.

As Family Day has been a licensed provider of high quality home child care for more than 45 years, we have some good insights into all of the benefits.

HOME CHILD CARE EXPLAINED

So, what exactly is home child care? It's pretty much what it sounds like: Caregivers look after small groups of children in their own homes. While

it might invoke an image of some old-fashioned babysitting arrangement, it really is so much more.

"In-home, licensed family child care is such an attractive option, in part because the care setting is really a home away from home," says Mary Lou Maher, Manager of Home Child Care at Family Day. "Caregivers offer families the comfort of care in a setting similar to what their children are used to in their own homes, complete with home-cooked meals, play spaces, and sleep areas."

But this type of care is no casual arrangement. "We have a network of more than 208 caregivers on contract across York, Peel and Toronto," says Maher. "They come to us with business plans and we become the licensed agency for them."

The agency works with these individuals on several levels: to ensure their homes meet and exceed all requirements under the CCEYA (Child Care and Early Years Act); to provide ongoing training and professional development; to help them find children for their programs; and to continually support and monitor their programs.

LICENSED CAREGIVERS

All of this is part of being a licensed agency. But what is the difference between licensed and unlicensed home child care?

"There is a significant difference between unlicensed and licensed child care," says Nira Ponniah, Assistant Manager of Home Child Care at Family Day. "Both are home environments, but that is their only similarity. In unlicensed care there is not consistent oversight and monitoring of the premises."

Licensed care is something quite different. Family Day follows the rules and regulations outlined by the Ontario Ministry of Education and has a set of policies in place to ensure quality and safety in our programs.

When a potential caregiver applies to Family Day, the agency conducts a detailed home study and evaluates the premise to ensure it meets the Ministry's requirements for such things as safety, exits and evacuations, programming, and menu planning.

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A SAFE AND REGULATED SPACE

Family Day employs a team of Home Child Care Coordinators who visit the homes monthly and work to support the caregivers and ensure they are meeting standards.

"The Coordinators work with both caregivers and with families to help everyone get the best experience possible," says Joanne McIntosh, a Home Child Care Coordinator with Family Day. "We listen to everyone's needs and we facilitate partnerships."

And because Family Day is a multi-service agency, the Coordinators have the backing of the entire agency, including our Integration Services department for children with special needs.

A WARM ENVIRONMENT

Another appealing aspect of licensed home child care is the warm, friendly atmosphere in which your child can enjoy a consistent routine that supports well-being and belonging. The same person cares for your child every day, promoting a sense of security in families, and helping to build trusting relationships.

"In these situations, caregivers and families get to know each other quite well and, before long, a caregiver and her own family may often be viewed as an extended family," says McIntosh.

And children in these settings receive the same

kind of high-quality programming they would receive in a child care centre. The curriculum is guided by "*How Does Learning Happen?*" which is a key component of Ontario's vision for children's early years.

SMALLER GROUP SIZES

Licensed home child care also has the benefit of having smaller groups of children. Licensed caregivers in Ontario can have up to six children in their home. This allows children to have more one-on-one time with caregivers, and foster close bonds with children in the group.

"It allows for individualized attention," says McIntosh. "Smaller sizes allow for caregivers to meet family's own needs, including specialized food needs or other individual requirements."

And Ponniah points out that "a home setting can be an ideal one for children who may have unique requirements or require additional support. The home environment can be a quiet, calm space for children."

PRACTICAL AND CONVENIENT

Licensed home child care can be a particularly good option if you require flexibility or have shift work or uncommon hours. Some caregivers may work out special arrangements with you if you need extra hours.

And, if you have a caregiver close to your own home, you will enjoy a broadened sense of community. A home setting also means that siblings can often be cared for in the same home – providing great convenience for families and comfort for children.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

No matter what type of child care you choose, you want to ensure your child is in a safe, supportive, and stimulating environment with a trusted caregiver. And a licensed home child care environment meets all of these requirements.

Sometimes people overlook home care in their search for a child care arrangement, simply because they just don't know enough about it.



"Licensed home child care is nurturing, quality care in a licensed environment," says Maher. "It isn't profiled enough, but the benefits are amazing."



HOME CHILD CARE BY THE NUMBERS

- 910:** Children in Family Day licensed home child care programs
- 208:** Caregivers licensed with Family Day
- 168:** Years Family Day has been in operation
- 45:** Years Family Day has provided licensed home child care
- 15:** Home Care Coordinators at Family Day
- 3:** Regions in which provide licensed home child care (Peel, York, and Toronto)

Message from Joan Arruda, CEO



I have had the tremendous privilege of leading Family Day as its CEO since May, 2004. It has been an amazing 15 years, but at the end of June, I will be retiring to spend time with my husband

and family. After a career that has spanned 45 years, I am looking forward to enjoying life at a slower pace.

I started my career in Early Childhood Education in 1972 and, since that time, have worked in a variety of roles within the sector, learning and growing in every role I assumed. Completing my career with Family Day – an agency with diverse early learning services such as centre-based child care, home child care, special needs resourcing, and EarlyON family support programs – is really a fulfillment of all of my early career goals.

At the time of writing these notes, I do not know who my successor will be. However, I do know that the Board of Directors has engaged in an excellent process to select the new CEO, and I will be very happy to support the new leader's transition into Family Day.

During my time here, the agency has faced numerous challenges and opportunities. While some changes seemed to move with lightning speed, we often wished important work would move faster. Through it all,

A VERY FOND FAREWELL

I have been honoured to work with an amazing group of staff who work with children and families all through the organization. Whether in head office, Family Day programs, or our union, I want to thank the numerous individuals with whom I have worked.

I am so appreciative of the management team at Family Day for your support – it means so much to me.

I am thankful for the many positive relationships with other community agencies, government bodies, and our funders for their collaboration and attention.

And, to the families and children who walk through the door every day to utilize our programs or services, I have enjoyed all of your feedback, as it has helped us improve our services.

Finally, to the individuals on the Family Day Board of Directors who volunteer their time and expertise to provide the critical governance role as a charitable, non-profit organization, I have truly appreciated the opportunity to lead this organization. I also appreciate the support you have given our organization during the major sector transformations of the last 15 years.

To each and every one of you: Thank you for the part you have played in my success during my time at Family Day.



WE ARE BOWLED OVER

Close to 230 Family Day staff, parents and agency partners took part in our eighth annual Bowling for Family Day fundraiser on April 13, 2019 at Markham Bowl and Brunswick Zone Bramalea Lanes. We would like to thank everyone who supported the event, including our generous sponsors, our bowlers, and all of our terrific volunteers. Thanks to all of you, we have raised more than \$40,000, which will help children across all of our programming.



SAVE THE DATE

Family Day is pleased to announce that our second annual outdoor learning event for families and staff will take place on Saturday, October 5, 2019. The event – a day of nature activities in the forest – will once again be held at the Kortright Centre for Conservation in Woodbridge, Ontario. All children and families in our programs, along with Family Day staff and caregivers are invited, so mark your calendars.



OPEN DOORS
FAMILY DAY OUTDOOR
LEARNING ADVENTURES

ARE YOU READY FOR THE SUMMER?

With summer just around the corner, it's time to sign up for Family Day camp. To register your child for an enriching summer at one of our extended-day or school-age camp programs, visit www.familydaycare.com. Spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so register early.

I'M A *Happy* CAMPER



STORYPARK ADDED TO FOUR SITES

We continue to roll out Storypark across Family Day, and four more sites have installed the communications tool in 2019. Brookside, Doncrest, St. Francis (Peel) and Parkland are now all up and running with Storypark. The tool, which was launched in 2017, is designed to raise the profile of our educators as pedagogical leaders, make learning more visible, and further engage families and children.

Storypark



FAMILY DAY

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Our Programs

- Licensed Home Child Care
- Child Care Centres
- School Age Programs
- Resource Programs
- EarlyON Child and Family Centres
- Homework Plus

FOCUS Newsletter

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For countless families, Family Day is the only way!