

Childcare Providers

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Once I learned that I was pregnant, many difficult decisions had begun. One of the most important decisions and tasks I would be facing is finding the right childcare providers. I hated the idea that I was going to be returning to work when my child would be only 12 weeks old so I knew that I would have to find a place that impressed me beyond belief. The amount of childcare providers in our local phonebook was intimidating, I will admit. I narrowed it down to about ten places that were within 20 minutes of my house and started the quest of making phone calls and setting up appointments to visit.

Besides looking at childcare centers, I was also considering private childcare providers that were licensed for in their homes. I wasn't as keen on that concept but knew that it would be more cost efficient and owed it to my child to check into every possible scenario. The very first center that I visited was a franchise and I almost walked right back out. I was greeted by a screaming toddler who deemed it necessary to scream nonstop for several moments. I could not understand why no one seemed concerned about this or encouraged him to lower the volume of his screaming. In fact, most of the employees didn't seem very interested in the children. I cut my appointment short and crossed them off of the list. Within a week, two more childcare providers managed to get themselves taken off of my list as well.

A few more on my list seemed promising but the tuition costs almost sent me into labor. How in the world do people afford some of these childcare providers? It would almost be wiser for me to quit my job than pay these fees. My husband and I spent a few weeks contemplating that concept. Finally, after a coworker of his passed along his stepmother's name, I called her. We were told that she runs a small daycare out of her home and is absolutely wonderful. I thought that I would be the judge of that and very reluctantly called her. I had to admit that on the phone, she was very charming and personable. I went to visit her the next day and watch how things went in her household. The moment she let me in the front door, I got that warm and fuzzy feeling. She was just as darling as I could have wanted. The children that she had all seemed to adore her and were well mannered. She took a great amount of time talking to me and before the end of the hour, I had made up my mind. There would be no more visits to overrated childcare providers. I had found the perfect home away from home for my baby. With a smile on my face, I drove home and found my "to do" list. I took great pleasure in checking "childcare providers" off of that list. One less decision to make.