

Childcare and Your Baby

Maura Driscoll

Whether you're going back to work part time or full time or just need some time for yourself, choosing the right childcare provider may be the most important decision you will ever make as a parent.

Linda Mason

There are some general characteristics of quality childcare and the first and most important is to have a caring nurturing caregiver who will love your child.

It's very important that the caregiver have extensive experience and you want to check that experience. It's very important that the child be in a clean safe environment where there is focus on hygiene and safety.

Maura Driscoll

Fortunately, there are plenty of quality child care choices. Choosing the right setting requires evaluating your needs and your baby's needs.

If you want your children to be cared for in your home and need flexibility in scheduling, consider an in-home caregiver.

Carrie

I was especially concerned because I work generally at night and sometimes I work an overnight, we were able to work it so my shifts were different from my husband's most of the time, so he was home, and if that wasn't the case we were able to get either my mother or my mother in law to watch the baby for us.

Linda Mason

The advantages of having a relative take care of your child is that you can really count on the love and the consistency and hopefully the longevity of that care.

Maura Driscoll

Nannies are another in-home care option. A nanny may live with your family, or she may live elsewhere and come to your house each day.

Linda Mason

The advantages of a nanny it's the solution where you have the most control, you set the house, you hire the person, you're the employer its one on one care, it's very convenient logistically.

Hillary

Let's go tell Nene we're going to do a project, ok?

Maura Driscoll

Hillary wanted her daughter to be in a more intimate, home-like atmosphere, so she chose a family care setting.

Hillary

She's with five other children and it's a nice, small environment. They do projects, they go to the library.

Woman

Are these hard things or soft things? Soft things.

Maura Driscoll

A family care provider cares for children in her home, and will often allow for a more customized schedule. However, with both in home and family care you might need a backup plan if the provider is ill or on vacation.

Another good option for working parents is a child care center.

Linda Mason

The advantages of a child care center is that you have a licensed center that you know is supervised; that you have trained and experienced caregivers; and that there is a community. It's set up and designed for babies. It's nurturing, we have cribs set up for each individual baby. We have toys that are appropriate for babies and it's focused on one on one interaction, a lot of holding

Sarah

I think they have a lot of fun, they really become social and they get excited to see each other even at a very young age.

Linda Mason

We start our childcare in looking at what does that individual child want and need and then we develop our care around it. So it's very much a learning environment, but learning through play, because children learn through play.