

International Family Daycare Organisation: Conference 2009, Cork City, Ireland

Feedback from Seminar presentation: *'It's not like a job now. It's part of me'* by Sheila Garrity, M.A., Galway City and County Childcare Committee

1. What are the indicators of a quality family daycare service?

Don't think of what the 'experts' say means quality - Think of a Family Daycare provider that you admire – what are the qualities she/he has or her/his service has that are important/valuable to you?

(Each delegate wrote three indicators - listed here in no particular order. Similar responses were listed for each response given – to highlight the frequency stated)

Patient	Developmentally appropriate	Knowledge of child development
Safe environment	Respect	Responsive care
Giving	Love	Loving
Range of play experiences – indoors/outdoors	Experience and training of childminder	Richness/stimulating environment
Children having choices	Safe	Dependability
Happy	Safety	Love
Stimulation for the children	Safe environment	Safety and taken care of
Engaged	Age appropriate activities	Warmth and security
Happy children	Loving	Nurturing
Childminder-child interactions	Respect for family values	Caring
Comprehensive understanding of child development	Positive interactions between child and adult	Child friendly environment -carer - setting
Mature, Caring provider	Respectful	Friendly
Warm and Caring	Education	Happy
With a lot of space in the soul - relationships	Range of experiences for the child	Responsiveness of provider to children's developmental needs
Qualified Provider	Loving	Love
Play	Safe environment	Child Centred
Environment	Respect	Safe and Healthy environment
Working with Parents	Fun activities	Family environment
Health and safety	Caring for each child	Safety in the home
Loving care	Policy implementation	Happy children
Brian Builder	Child/adult interactions	Personality of a carer
Loving environment	Environment	Experiences/programs
Listen to the child	Smiling and being happy and a child is happy	Qualified registered and insured childminder
Positive interactions	Child friendly environment	Loving

2. What are some of the reasons parents continue to choose family daycare in settings in such large numbers?

(Each delegate wrote three indicators - listed here in no particular order. Similar responses were listed for each response given – to highlight the frequency state)

So they can work/dependability	Feel safe and good	Small groups
One to one communication	Service is close to my home	Family environment
Home from home environment	Small number of children	Homely environment
Local service in the community	Location(proximity to home/work)	They are in a home and have more things around them
Home from home environment	Better care provided	Less children
Flexibility	safe	affordability
Small groups	Small number of children	Local
Usually a little cheaper than a childcare centre	Children in smaller groups of care	Not as structured as a childcare centre
Lower staff adult ratios to children	Recommendations from other parents	Small numbers
Home environment	Continuity of care	More intimate setting
Child part of locality	Loving nurturing homes	Cost
Home setting	Cost	Home based care
Money/fees	They want their child to have 1 to 1 care	Same friendly face to greet the child everyday
Hours which suit families working patterns	Service offered	Close relationship between parent and carer
Siblings cared for in the same setting	Local	Home environment
Flexible	Home environment leads to more options/experiences	One to one continuity of care
Close communication	Child adult ratio	Community Links
Home from home	Convenience	Small numbers
Family environment	Local/personal connection	Small group
Informal setting	Good program	One person to attaché to
Social opportunities for their child	Children near work	Primary caregiver
Multi-age	Continuity of care	Home from home for the child
To take care of their child with the knowledge that they are in good hands	Give children one to one attention	Home away from home situation
Nearby	Job hours vary – early mornings/evenings	Affordability
Home environment	Minder philosophy	A small place

4. Parental Choice: Frequency of Responses

Small groups	Service is close to my home	Home from home environment
Small number of children	Location(proximity to home/work)	Family environment
Less children	Local	Homely environment
Small number of children	Local service in the community	They are in a home and have more things around them
Small groups	Local	Home from home environment
Children in smaller groups of care	Nearby	Home environment
Small numbers	Child part of locality	Loving nurturing homes
More intimate setting	Community Links	Home setting
Lower staff adult ratios to children	Local/personal connection	Home based care
They want their child to have 1 to 1 care	Convenience	Informal setting
Same friendly face to greet the child everyday		Home environment
Continuity of care		Home environment
Small numbers	Affordability	Home environment leads to more options/experiences
Small group	affordability	Home away from home situation
One to one continuity of care	Cost	Not as structured as a childcare centre
Primary caregiver	Cost	Home from home
One person to attach to	Money/fees	Family environment
Child adult ratio	Usually a little cheaper than a childcare centre	Home from home for the child
Continuity of care		
Give children one to one attention		One to one communication
A small place	Hours which suit families working patterns	Close relationship between parent and carer
	Flexibility	Close communication
Multi-age	Children near work	
Siblings cared for in the same setting	So they can work/dependability	Social opportunities for their child
	Flexible	
Feel safe and good	Job hours vary – early mornings/evenings	Better care provided
safe		Good program
To take care of their child with the knowledge that they are in good hands	Recommendations from other parents	Service offered
		Minder philosophy

- 21 Responses – small groups; 1 to 1 care; continuity of care;
- 18 Responses – home from home environment; informal, family setting
- 10 Responses – locally based in the community, convenient
- 6 Responses – affordability/cost
- 6 Responses – work related/flexible/near work
- 4 Responses – good program & better care/minder specific/service
- 3 Responses – safe/reliable
- 3 Responses – communication/parent-provider
- 2 Responses – siblings/mixed ages
- Miscellaneous – Social Opportunities for child; parent recommended;