

Unregulated Family Home Child Care Fact Sheet for Parents

What is the law regarding family home child care?

In Newfoundland and Labrador, a person can provide family home child care, without a provincial licence or an approval from a licensed agency, where the service is operated less than 10 hours a week or the child care provider has a maximum of four children under age 13 and no more than two of these children are under age two. If all of the children are younger than age two, a maximum of three children can be cared for. These numbers include the child care provider's own children and any other children living in the home who are under the age of 13. Further information on child care exemptions can be found in the *Child Care Act* or the *Child Care Regulations* on the following website: <http://www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/titleindex.htm>.

The provincial government does not monitor unregulated family home child care. If you know of a family home child care that is caring for children more than 10 hours per week or above the numbers allowed by law, please call the **Department of Education and Early Childhood Development at 729-5960**. All reports are investigated. If it is discovered that a family home child care service is caring for children more than 10 hours per week or above the number allowed by law, the child care provider can choose to become individually licensed, approved under a licensed agency, reduce the number of children attending the home, reduce the number of hours or close the child care home.

What things should I look for in an unregulated child care home?

- Is the home following the law and only caring for the number of children allowed?
- Does the home appear to be safe, clean and inviting?
- Does the home have emergency exits and basic safety devices such as smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers?
- Does the child care provider have police background checks available for you to see?
- Who else lives in the home that is 18 years or older and do they have background checks available for you to see?
- Does the child care provider have a certificate in First Aid?
- What is the provider's experience in working with children?
- Does the provider interact with children in a positive way?
- Is there a good supply and variety of toys and equipment?
- Are the toys, equipment & play spaces (indoor and outdoor) safe and in good condition?
- Are parents welcomed and invited inside when they drop off /pick up their children?
- Does the provider encourage parents to visit their child at any time?
- If snacks or meals are served, is a menu plan available to see and is the food nutritious?

What provincial licensing standards are there?

The government of Newfoundland and Labrador has established the *Child Care Act*, Regulations and Policy and Standards to ensure the health, safety and well-being of children in licensed and agency approved child care settings. The province has also implemented a 10 year Child Care Strategy; the Power of Play campaign and the Early Learning and Child Care Directory to assist parents and child care providers to foster safe, nurturing and inclusive learning environments for all children in our province. In addition to licensing standards, the province offers funding programs to assist with child care fees where a child care service is regulated.

Where can I get more information?

For more information on early learning and child care in Newfoundland and Labrador, go to the Newfoundland and Labrador Government website at www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/.