

## Interested in Becoming a Child Care Provider?

DCF recommends that no financial commitment be made until all structural and child care regulations are scrutinized.

- Contact Dept. of Children & Families Services, Day Care Licensure, 723-2064. An introduction packet is mailed to the interested applicant that explains all requirements for operating a child care facility.
- The potential provider must check with the city's zoning department to determine if a location is appropriately zoned. Also the environmental health department will have to check that the sewer / septic system can accommodate the business.
- The applicant then can request a copy of the rules and statutes of the operation of a child care facility. A Day Care Licensure Counselor is then assigned to the prospective owner. Requirements for the building and staff training are explained in detail.
- Then the Counselor issues an application along with other forms. The application requires the prospective owner to submit a floor plan including any anticipated structural repairs.
- After background screening of staff is cleared and child care state training requirements are met, the fire department & environmental health department must clear the structure for operation. The licensing inspector can determine the capacity of children the center may have.

To participate in school readiness services program, a provider first has a child of an eligible parent in attendance at their facility.

- The appropriate representative from the child care facility attends a 3 hour class through the Jacksonville Children's Commission. This class explains how the school readiness program works and what is required of the provider and parent. Providers must bring their license or if a religious-exempt facility, proof of accreditation.

To participate in the Voluntary Pre Kindergarten program, interested applicants can contact Cathy Parker at 208-2040.

To participate in the Guiding Stars of Duval, applicants call Padma Rajan, 296-7278.