

## How do I choose a caregiver?

Once you have selected the agency you will be working with, you should work with their staff to select two or three caregiver homes to visit.

Set an interview time, allowing at least one hour to meet with the caregiver in her home. An agency representative may go with you to explain how the agency can work with you and the caregiver, to give your child the best care possible.

Try to take your child with you to the visit so that you can see how your child interacts with the caregiver and others in the home.

## Ask the caregiver a few questions about her home child care such as:

- Daily routine for activities and outdoor play
- Learning and reading opportunities
- Quiet time activities
- Sleep schedules
- Menus and meal times
- How behaviour guidance is handled



For more information  
visit [www.peelregion.ca](http://www.peelregion.ca)  
or call **905-791-7800**

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# What is Licensed HOME Child Care?



Licensed home child care provides children with a safe, educational and caring environment with a caregiver who is under contract with a licensed agency.

Children's Services  
  
Learn.Play.Care.

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## What is a licensed agency?

The child care agency is licensed by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and operates under the regulations of the *Day Nurseries Act*. For more information, visit [www.ontario.ca](http://www.ontario.ca).

### A licensed home child care agency:

- Provides trained staff to support the caregiver and the families of the children in their care
- Offers ongoing training for caregivers in child development and age appropriate programming, nutrition, first aid and CPR
- Monitors the child care home for quality and safety, and maintains legislative standards required by the *Day Nurseries Act*
- Ensures potential caregivers and their families are in good health and have completed a Vulnerable Persons Criminal Reference Check
- Ensures all homes are smoke free and in compliance with the Smoke Free Ontario Act
- Supports caregivers in providing a nurturing age appropriate learning environment for children

### Under the *Day Nurseries Act*

A caregiver can care for no more than five children up to the age of 12 at any given time – including the following restrictions:

- Two children under the age of 2
- Three children under the age of 3
- Five children under the age of 6 (including the caregiver's own children)

Agency representatives monitor homes on a monthly basis to ensure all homes meet or exceed Day Nurseries regulations. Caregivers are randomly inspected by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.



## How do children benefit from a licensed home child care arrangement?

- The caregiver can get to know each individual child and family
- Siblings can be cared for in the same home
- Some children feel more comfortable in a home setting with a smaller group of children
- Small group size in homes allows for more flexibility in program and activity schedules
- Care is available in a variety of languages
- Caregivers work as partners with families and can reinforce the standards of care set at home, for behaviour guidance
- Convenience of child care homes located in your own neighbourhood
- Hours of care may be more flexible to accommodate parents' work schedules
- Parents work in close partnership with the caregiver and agency staff to ensure children are given a positive growing and learning experience
- Caregivers and agency staff are supportive of working parents and can offer resources for additional information
- Trained agency staff or home visitors monitor and communicate with the caregiver, the children and the parents monthly to ensure a high standard of care is maintained



## Start by making some lists ...

- A list of your child care requirements including:
  - \* Hours and days of care needed
  - \* Ideal locations – near home, school or work
  - \* Special needs of your children – food requirements, allergies
- A list of the child care agencies working in your neighbourhood
- Questions you want to ask the agency:
  - \* Length of time in operation
  - \* Experience of caregivers
  - \* Training and support offered to caregivers
  - \* Insurance coverage
  - \* Vacation and sick policies
  - \* Fee schedule and availability of fee assistance
  - \* Average stay of children in homes
  - \* Availability of care meeting your needs
  - \* Support given to the family

