

Communicating With Your Provider

Child Care Center and Family Child Care Providers:

- Every day when you drop off your child, you'll want to check in and let the provider or teachers know how your child's morning has been so far. This is the time to let them know if she has not felt well, or if anything unusual or special has happened at home.
- Let your child care provider or teachers know where to reach you that day if there are any changes in your routine.
- Be aware of the program policies and your contract. Honor the policies, especially regarding illness and payment.
- Daily check-in is not necessarily the best time to discuss questions or issues you may have, but arrange to speak with the teachers or provider over the phone, or make an appointment to talk when things are quiet.
- Respect the drop-off and pick-up times. Always call if you are going to be late for any reason. When you pick up your child, find out how your child's day went, how she napped, ate and played.
- Treat your providers with respect. Mutual respect builds trust, and leads to a strong relationship all around.
- Understand that your provider is a professional. If you express interest in her professional development, the program and your child will benefit as well.
- Get involved with the program. The more you participate, the more dedicated you will feel to the program. Providers will appreciate any help you can offer.

In-Home Providers (Nannies):

- Communicate openly and often including daily check-ins to let the caregiver know in the morning your child's general mood, where you can be reached, and then at the end of the day to see how the day went.
- Make sure that your work agreement is secured, and that each of you hold up your end of the agreement.
- Take the time to praise your caregiver for a job well done.
- Always treat your caregiver with respect, which will make her feel valued and more committed to her job.
- If possible, be flexible. More than likely your caregiver will return the favor to you.