

# Should YOU Become a Family Child Care Provider?

Becoming a Family Child Care Provider is NOT for everyone. The following are some questions every prospective provider should ask themselves BEFORE they commit to opening a child care home:

- Do you really LIKE children? Will you have the patience to work with children for extended periods of times, usually without the benefit of having other adults around to converse with?
- Will your children and/or spouse accept having "outside" children in their home, sometimes invading their "private space" and sharing your attention?
- Are you self motivated and can you work without supervision to make tough decisions regarding the management of your business?
- Is there actually a market in your area that will supply your business with the necessary children?



- Will your neighbors support you and your business, or will they frown on having the added noise and possible disturbances your business will entail? Sometimes your homeowners association will specifically prohibit any home-based businesses. It is usually easier to obtain permission prior to starting your business, than after you have started.



- Are you able and willing to attend classes and workshops necessary to develop your knowledge of appropriate management and child care practices?
- Can your home be set up to safely accommodate children? Will your home be appealing to the families you will be recruiting?
- Sometimes it takes time to establish your business. Are you going to be able to afford to be without an income while you get started?
- Do you have the availability of funds to cover the expense of setting up your own business? Initial set-up costs such as toys, books, furniture, art supplies, fingerprinting, background checks, fire extinguishers, and smoke detectors.



*Reprinted with permission of PathFinder Unlimited, Inc., "Home is Where the Heart Is..."*