



BENEFITS of Professional Membership in FFCCHA

**Florida Family Child Care
Home Association, Inc.**

www.familychildcare.org

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The Story of One Day in a Family Child Care Provider's Life - with a *State Association...*

Not so very long ago, in the state of Florida, a licensed family child care provider was busy caring for 5 children. They were all sitting on the living room sofa as she read a story to them about a Hermit crab.

*The 5 month old infant fell asleep in her arms so she carefully placed him on his back in the crib. She was complying with a new rule to prevent SIDS. **July 2003***



The doorbell rang. It was the handy man that she had hired to put up fluorescent lights in her living room.



She really did not want the lights, and neither did her husband, but she reluctantly agreed to the changes so that her home would pass the 20 foot candle lighting requirement for licensing inspection.

Even though her living room already had 3 windows and 3 lamps, she needed more light according to the rules and regulations.



So, the children moved to the kitchen to paint...



FFCCHA was instrumental in the rewording of the DCF rule lighting requirement and the 20 foot candles was deleted July 2003.

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Then she went to check on the 5 month old infant napping. He was just fine sleeping on his back.



The doorbell rang again. It was Jordan and her mom. She normally came on another day but her mom only had part time work and the boss had called her in unexpectedly.

Unfortunately the provider had to turn her away – even though the parent had no other child care available. The provider could not care for the other child because she was only allowed to care for 5 children at one time – and there were already 5 children present.

The provider went to check on the 5 month old infant napping. He had rolled over on his stomach so she rolled him back to his back.



FFCCHA was instrumental in the ratio changes in 1997 when the 6th child was allowed.

The doorbell rang again. It was Holly, a single mom, with her daughter Julia, an only child. The provider had cared for this child when she was 2 and 3yrs old but the family had moved away.

The mom stated that her daughter was now going into kindergarten and wanted Julia to get off the bus at the provider's home after school.

Unfortunately, the provider had to say no. She couldn't take care of Julia because the only school-agers that regulated homes could care for were ones that were siblings of younger ones in care.





In 1997, non-sibling school-agers are allowed and the total number of children allowed in care increased to 10, to include school-agers.

Then she went to check on the 5 month old infant napping. He had rolled over on his stomach so she rolled him back to his back.

She cleaned up the finger paint activity and hung up their pictures to dry.






She glanced at the mail from the day before. Bills, of course! She opened the electric bill and found that it was much higher than in the past because family child care business's were being charged commercial electric rates.



In 1995, FFCCHA was instrumental in getting legislation passed protecting family child care from being charged commercial utility rates.



Also, on her counter was her bill to renew her liability insurance and she noticed another letter from her homeowner's insurance company. She had already paid her homeowner's bill. So, being curious, she opened it. It was a cancellation notice!

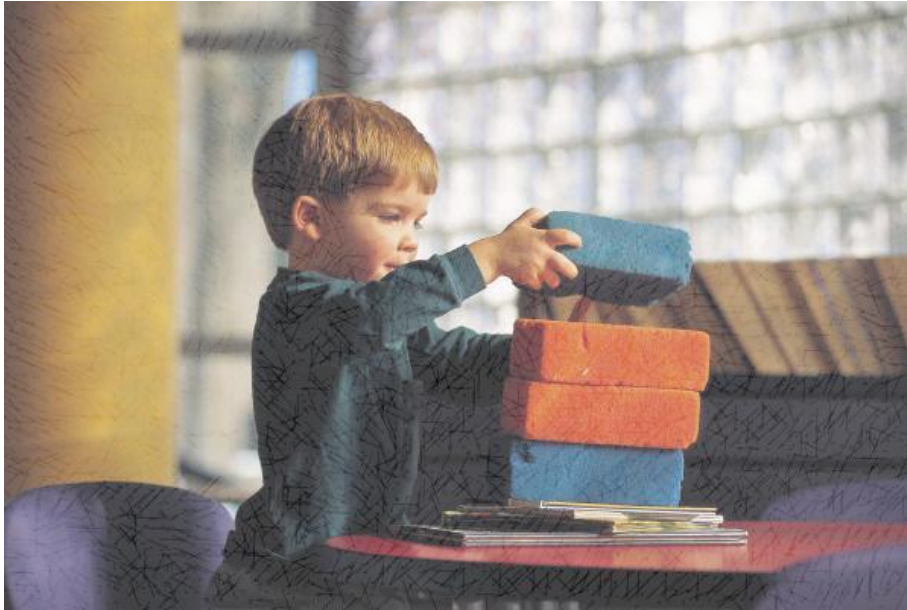


They were canceling her homeowner's insurance because she had a child care business her home!



In 1998, the FFCCHA was instrumental in getting a new state law passed that homeowner insurance companies CANNOT cancel a licensed family child care provider's homeowner's insurance if she carries a separate business liability insurance.

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The children were now busy in the dining room - turned into playroom. One was setting the child size table, one pushing a doll in the stroller, one working on a puzzle, one dumping the blocks on the floor.

She wished she could send her ten year old child out to check the mail for today – but she knew she wasn't allowed to do so according to the Department of Children and Families.



In 2011, FFCCHA's Legislative Liaison was instrumental in passing House Bill 139 allowing providers the ability to supervise household children at their own discretion unless they receive subsidized child care through school readiness programs for them.

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The doorbell rang. It was someone holding a tricycle. He stated that he had almost hit it with his car because it was in the middle of the street. He wanted to know if it belonged to her.

The provider explained that it did not belong to her, but suggested he try the house at the end of the street. The owner claims to be a registered program – but she had 10 children out walking the day before. All of the children appeared to be under the age of 4 years old!

The licensed provider had reported her to DCF but it did not do any good.

They just sent her neighbor a letter telling her what the legal ratio was for her program.





In July 2003, a new law came into effect that caregivers who are not registered or licensed or repeatedly are caught over ratio can be fined and/or have a court injunction to close them. (DCF Inspectors now make a visit to any home that is reported over ratio.)

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She also noticed that her neighbor continued to advertise on Craig's List without any problem – even though it was suppose to be against the law to advertise without a registration or license number.



In 2011, HB 139, created by FFCCHA's Legislative Liaison, also made advertising without a state registration or license number for family child care homes or large family child care homes, a first degree misdemeanor. (to stop illegal advertisements)



The provider went to check on the 5 month old infant napping. He had rolled over on his stomach so she rolled him back to his back and he was awake, so she picked him up and gave him a hug!



In July 2003, the new rule states that an infant has to be on his back to sleep up until he can rollover by himself (original drafts of the rule said up to 12 months). FFCCHA was instrumental in the rewording.

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One of the kids had covered himself with his blanket and was crawling around on the floor at her feet.

The provider asked what he was doing. He replied, "I'm a hermit crab in my new home – my blankie!"

The repairman was still working with the lights, wires needed to be run through the ceiling. It was time for her to prepare lunch.

The doorbell rang. It was a parent looking for child care for her infant. She got the provider's name and address from the DCF website.



The provider could not take the infant right then (her program was full) but she took her phone number and promised to call the prospective client at nap time.



During the phone call, the provider agreed to an interview for the following week, for an opening that was coming up next month when school starts.

Alex, now 4 years old, who had been in her care since he was 6 months old, was leaving to attend a private Preschool.



In fall 2001, the providers were listed on the new DCF website and FFCCHA was instrumental in allowing the providers a choice of listing or not listing their addresses and map locator on the website.



In special session in fall 2004, VPK (Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten) Legislation was passed. It allowed for a new state VPK program (free to all 4yr olds) to be offered by the public and private sector which included FCC homes starting in the fall of 2005.

Previous to passage, FFCCHA was very active in advocating for FCC homes to be included in VPK.

Currently, about 150 FCC homes offer the VPK program.

As, you can see, the provider is in great demand! She has thought about how great it would be caring for more children in her home, but that would mean she would have to open a center.

She really likes the family child care home setting and does not want to open a center.





In 2000, the first Large family child care homes are licensed (2 caregivers for up to 12 children in a home). Again, FFCCHA was instrumental in this legislation.



On Saturday, the provider went to a local conference at the community college. In one of the workshops, on Early Literacy, the presenter asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves, and tell what preschool they taught at. The provider said she taught in her home – her family child care home.

A few participants snickered. And she heard one whisper- she's not a teacher, she's a babysitter!

FFCCHA offers an annual state Family Child Care conference, quarterly trainings, and an annual Leadership Summit.

These trainings offer great ideas of learning activities for the children, environment set up and business practices, such as record keeping, marketing, policies.

These trainings also provide opportunities to network with other professional providers around the state.



**Your State Association
saves you ...**



**MONEY and TIME, thus
increases your BOTTOM LINE.**

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What is FFCCHA?



- **Florida Family Child Care Home Association**
- A statewide, non-profit, professional organization for regulated family child care providers, parents, and advocates of high quality care for children.



***There's No Place Like Home
for Early Learning***

Our Mission

A united voice on
behalf
of all children
to promote and
encourage quality
professional
family child care
through education,
legislation, advocacy,
mentoring, caring and
love.

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What FFCCHA offers providers...

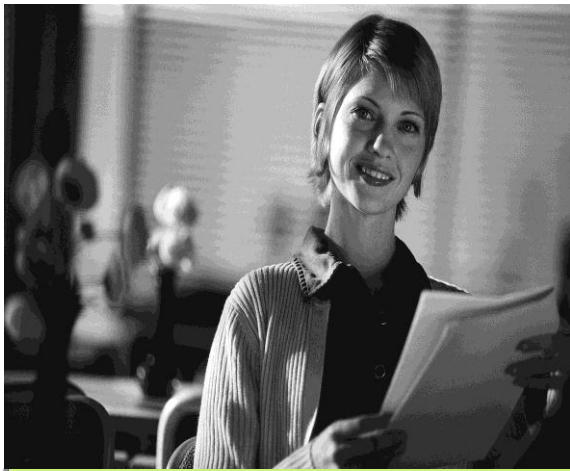
Scholarships

- For state conference, trainings, credentials and accreditation

Professional Development

- Training at state annual conference, leadership summit, quarterly meetings, and local chapter associations

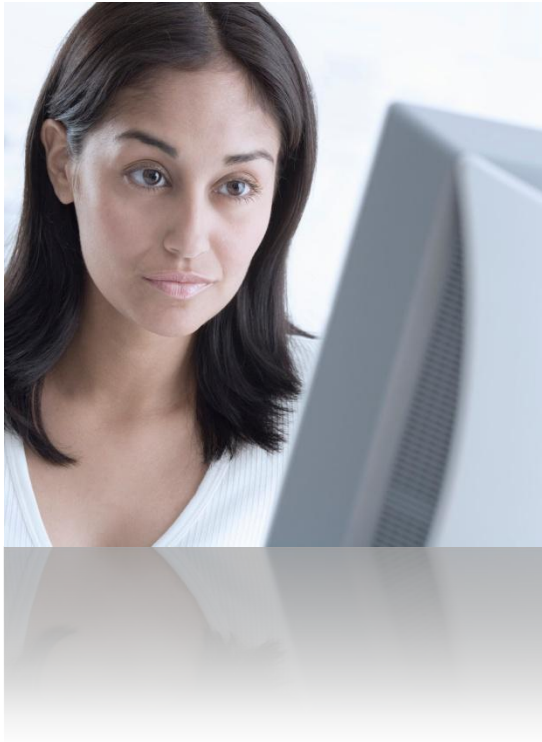




Representation

A voice “at the table” at statewide meetings on topics such as

- Quality Initiatives
- Inclusion
- QRIS (Quality Rating Improvement System)
- CCDF (Child Care Development Fund) Plan
- VPK (Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten)



Representation *(Continued)*

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- Child Care WAGE\$ Florida
- T.E.A.C.H. (Early Childhood Scholarship Program)
- DCF (Department of Children and Families) rule revisions and changes
- FCCECEN (Florida Community College Early Childhood Educators Network)
- DOE - OEL (Department of Education – Office of Early Learning)

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M.E.N.T.O.R Program

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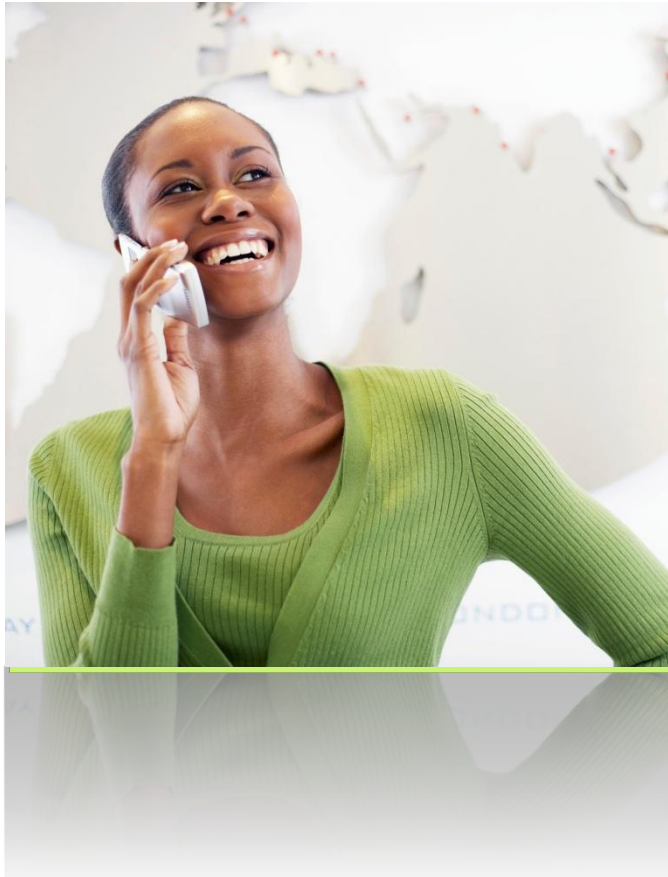
Mentors educate, nurture, train, observe, and role model

- Providers can get helpful advice and tips from peer mentors
- Become a state certified mentor to help other providers

Parent Involvement

- Parent memberships
- Parent Choice Award
- Parent page in Grapevine
- Letters to Parents
- Full page color ad to parents in the area Early Care and Education Guides around the state

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Public Awareness

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"There's No Place Like Home" campaign with color brochures, flyers, and display boards. Display tables and workshops at local and statewide conferences, such as One Goal, FL AEYC, Early Learning Coalitions, Children's Week in Tallahassee, and other community organizations.

- Website - *Newly designed and updated!*
- Quarterly Newsletter: *The Grapevine*

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Legislative Updates

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- Changes, awareness, and input on Florida Statutes that directly affect family child care, children, and parent choice

Networking with Peers

- At state meetings and events, (including annual Conference)
- Online at FFCCHA yahoo groups
- Facebook

Latino Council

- Meetings and trainings in Spanish held quarterly and at annual conference
- FFCCHA publications in Spanish

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How can Agencies & Advocates Support FFCCHA:

- Offer grants and scholarships to attend state and national conferences, professional memberships, national accreditation, Second Helping and other training classes
- Advocate for more funding
- Support certified M.E.N.T.O.R. program
- Encourage FCC providers to participate on local Early Learning Coalitions
- Support quality programs by promoting Community Awareness regarding quality family child care homes





Who is NAFCC?

- National Association for Family Child Care
- A non-profit organization dedicated to promoting quality child care by strengthening the profession of family child care.
- NAFCC is one of the largest professional support systems for family child care and early care and education advocates.



Accreditation

NAFCC sponsors the only nationally recognized Family Child Care Accreditation System.



- This system was designed by providers, parents, and other experts during a 4-year, consensus-building process specifically to address the unique standards for family child care.
- NAFCC accreditation sets high standards enabling providers to deliver quality early care and education and helps parents and policy-makers identify high-quality family child care.

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Association Leadership Institute (ALI)

Training and support to state and local associations to build management and leadership skills and foster consistency between local, state and national associations.

Professional Development Institute (PDI)

Training and technical assistance to increase care professional development and knowledge of early care and education practices.



Discounts On Conferences and Products

- Reduced rates for NAFCC annual conferences, Association Leadership and Professional Development Institutes
- Reduced rates for NAFCC Accreditation
- Discounts on early childhood education and related publications offered through the NAFCC website (www.nafcc.org) and at national conferences



Discounts on publications, products and services from partner vendors

- Discount School Supply provides a 15% discount.
- Envision Health Plan Partner's provide a Prescription drug savings card that is good at over 33,000 participating pharmacies nationwide with a savings range from 18% to 60%.
- Minute Menu Kids provide a 10% discount. Free! 30-Day Trial



Resources and Advocacy on Behalf of the Family Child Care Field

- **Representation** of NAFCC membership at national early childhood education conferences and public policy forums
- **Promoting quality** Family Child Care through media contacts and publicity



- **Quarterly newsletter** with timely information supplied by Regional Representatives, including local and state association contact information, dates and locations of conferences and legislative information. Also includes national trends, public policy information, and a parent newsletter



- **Networking opportunities** with early care and education professionals who share the vision of quality family child care
- **Building commitment** of early care and education field to include Family Child Care participation on all levels



Individual Membership - ~~\$35~~ \$30 for FFCCHA Members
Gives providers, parents and child care advocates
voting privileges, quarterly newsletters and business
discounts.

Child Care Agency - \$140

An agency who chooses this type of membership will
give members of that agency copies of NAFCC's
quarterly newsletter and to receive business discounts.

How do FCC Associations Promote High Quality?

Associations promote the following **key elements** of high quality family child care identified by the Families and Work Institute Study.

- **Provider-to-child relationships:** Family child care associations encourage providers to offer care that is warm, caring, sensitive, attentive and responsive to children.
- **Intentionality:** Family child care associations attract committed providers-those who have chosen to care for young children and see themselves as more than babysitters.

How do FCC Associations Promote High Quality? (cont.)

- **Training:** Family child care associations offer a variety of “provider-friendly” training programs geared to the provider’s level of experience and educational background. Examples include: enhanced child care training to further care giving skills; mentoring programs, accreditation preparation, and leadership development opportunities.

How do FCC Associations Promote High Quality? (cont.)

- **Peer support:** Family child care associations provide opportunities for providers to work with and learn from their colleagues.
- **Regulations:** Family child care associations encourage and/or require provider members to be state-regulated.

How Can Your Community Partners Support Associations?

The following are examples of how **community partners can support** associations.

- Regulatory, resource and referral agencies, and child and adult care food programs can **inform providers** about family child care associations and **encourage provider participation**.

How Can Your Community Partners Support Associations? (Cont.)

- States can **use money from** the Child Care and Development Block Grants and other **funding streams to support programs offered** by family child care associations.
- The **private sector can fund** family child care associations and provide technical assistance as needed.
- **Training initiatives** can be linked with accreditation or institutional credit and **administered through** family child care associations.

FFCCHA Website:

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