

Florida Statistics

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

- There are **more than 6,500** regulated family child care providers.
- In addition, there are **over 5,000** informal child care providers.
- There is a **shortage** of trained support staff available statewide to provide training and technical assistance.
- There are **only 36** identified local family child care support groups and associations.
- **Less than 4%** of family child care providers are Nationally Accredited.



Mentors
Educate
Nurture
Train
Observe
Role model

Family Child Care M.E.N.T.O.R. Program • 9207 Edgemont Lane • Boca Raton, FL 33434

FAMILY CHILD CARE M.E.N.T.O.R. PROGRAM



Providing caregivers with opportunities to enhance their professional development

“A MENTOR is an active, licensed family child care provider who has been certified and has met established qualifications and on-going training requirements ...”

Program Mission Statement

To maintain a structured, self-sustaining statewide peer mentoring program to encourage and enhance quality family child care.

Program Goals

- Improve the quality of child care available for all children.
- Increase provider skill, knowledge and professional development.
- Assist current provider support staff in meeting the needs of providers in their area.
- Increase provider retention by supporting a viable career path for providers.

Program Administration

This program was initially created and developed by the Florida Children’s Forum in collaboration with FFCCHA, Inc. Funding was provided by the A.L. Mailman Family Foundation. Currently, the program is administered by Florida Family Child Care Home Association, Inc.

Program Overview

- All Mentors accepted into the program must currently operate a licensed family child care home and be a chapter member of FFCCHA, Inc. Additionally, one must have been licensed for at least 3 years, have a CDA or NAFCC Accreditation, and have 30 hours in service training within the last 2 years. An application is required.
- There are three categories in this program: Mentors, Mentor Instructors and Mentor Instructor Trainers.

- In addition to these three categories, there are three levels of Mentors available: Level I (Basic), Level II (Intermediate) and Level III (Master Mentor). Each level has higher qualifications and training requirements.
- Mentors are required to meet specific criteria, including 16 hours of initial mentor training and 16 hours of additional training annually.
- All Mentors, Mentor Instructors and Mentor Instructor Trainers are required to re-certify each year, which include specific on-going training requirements and updates on their child care license and credentials.
- Instructors are required to meet the same requirements as Mentors (if they are still a provider), but receive an additional eight hours of instructor training as well as on-going training for each mentor curriculum.
- Instructor Trainers are required to meet all of the requirements of the Mentors and Instructors as well as complete an initial 16-hours of training and on going training for each curriculum approved by this program’s Advisory Board.
- Prospective Mentors and Instructors are solicited through local chapters of FFCCHA, Inc.

Program Collaborations

- Chapters of FFCCHA, Inc.
- The Florida TEACH Program
- Department of Children and Families
- Local Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies
- Local Early Learning Coalitions



Program Benefits

Benefits for Children

- More capable and better trained caregivers
- A more stable environment due to lower provider turnover

Benefits for Parents

- Caregivers trained to communicate and support clients and their families
- A larger base of higher quality early learning programs available in the home

Benefits for Mentors

- A viable career path that encourages current providers to stay in the early learning and education field
- Advanced training that will encourage and support current skills and knowledge

Benefits for Protégés

- Personalized, one-on-one technical assistance with a trained, knowledgeable provider
- On-going support and encouragement to increase their skill, knowledge and confidence as a provider

Benefits for Provider Support Staff

- Ability to reach more providers by concentrating on training and supporting Mentors and Instructors instead of the entire provider base
- Ability to offer a wider variety of technical assistance from opening a family child care home to getting a CDA, National Accreditation or operating a VPK program

For more information, please contact

Abbie Bill

Mentor Program Chair

Florida Family Child Care Home Association, Inc.
9207 Edgemont Lane, Boca Raton, FL 33434
(561) 482-6038 ● FLMentorpgm@aol.com