

## Family Child Care: What is it?

*A Provision of caring for children in a home setting.* There may be no place like home for your child, but finding a quality in-home child care provider can be the next best thing.

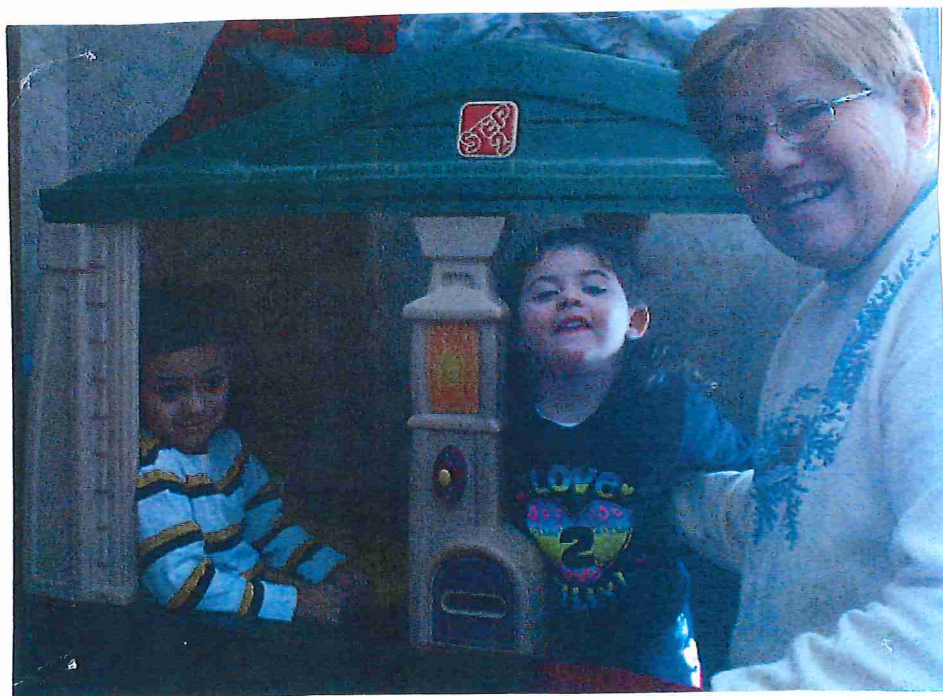
Family childcare providers care for children in their own home. The children are in a mixed age group with a low adult to child ratio of usually 6 to 1. Care can be more personalized and individual and the routine may be more flexible. Child turnover is low as most providers have the same children from birth until they are ready for kindergarten. This creates a bond between provider and child as well as provider and parent as they participate in all the stages of a child's early years together. Parents often get to know their providers personally. After all, they are in their home and become acquainted with their family. Parents and providers develop strong relationships and team together to work towards a successful childcare experience for everyone. Issues such as feeding, potty training, behavior, socialization and early education can be resolved through mutually beneficial communications.

All providers with Beverly Children's Learning Center are licensed through the Department of Early Education and Care of MA. Providers receive yearly training hours and are fully certified in First Aid and CPR. We currently have providers in Beverly, Peabody and Danvers.

If you are interested in Family Child Care for your child or maybe you would like more information on becoming a Provider please contact me at Beverly Children's Learning Center 978-927-1269 ext. 206.

Pamela Caldwell

Family Child Care Director



## Child Play is Beneficial

### Spontaneous Child Play Should Be Encouraged

By [Robin McClure](#)

The next time your child care provider or teacher says kids "just played" during the afternoon, be happy that the unstructured activity might be the healthiest development of all for kids.

Parents today load their youngster's schedule with enrichment activities, early music and art tutorials, "brain-time" videos and other stimulating activities, and academic-focused classes because they feel that will help their child get ahead. Many daycare providers feel compelled to post hourly activities and themes while minimizing "free time" play because parents often indicate they think that is not the best use of their tot's day. (Some adults even argue that since they are paying for their kid's care, the children should be in structured learning activities, with free time done outside of the day.)

But the American Academy of Pediatrics says that spontaneous "kid play" is actually what kids need and crave for healthy development and the building of appropriate social skills. So instead of thinking that unstructured kid play is a waste of time or feeling disappointed over the lack of enrichment or academic-focus, realize that the spontaneous kid play may be just what the doctor prescribed for overall health and social development! The American Academy of Pediatrics Clinical Report on ***The Importance of Play in Promoting Healthy Child Development and Maintaining Strong Parent-Child Bonds*** says that this type of unstructured play has numerous benefits. In addition to "brain time," it can help children develop creativity, discover their own individual interests and passions, encourage interaction with others, and let them practice decision making skills.



Happy Birthday to Chloe 2/3/14

Reminder All Programs will be closed on 2/17/14 in observance  
of President's Day