

# Transitioning your child into Family Day Care



You may have met lots of educators and seen a variety of education and care services but just like all families, all Family Day Cares are different.

You need to find the one that best suits your child and your family. Finding and choosing someone to care for your most precious little one is a difficult process.

**Whether you are at the beginning of this process or you have recently found the right educator for your child, these tips should help settle your child into Family Day Care.**

## Choosing the right Family Day Care (Educator) for your child

- ✓ Is the location convenient for drop off and collection (considering traffic)
- ✓ Has the educator discussed their fees with you and provided you with a copy?
- ✓ Have you been shown all of the approved areas of the educator's home?
- ✓ Has the educator spoken to you about routines established with the FDC?
- ✓ Has the educator talked through their Services Policies and Procedures with you?
- ✓ Are you aware of the regular outings that the educator may go on?
- ✓ Are you aware of the occupants of the Educators home?
- ✓ Are you aware of any pets the educator may have?
- ✓ Do you feel the physical environment and the educator's manner would be consistent with what your child is familiar with?
- ✓ Has the educator showed you where your child would be sleeping or resting?
- ✓ How will the educator communicate with you once your child is enrolled? Do they use an app or program to share information?



**All Family Day Care Educators must be registered with an approved Education and Care Service and abide by the Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations. All Garden Play Educators are regularly checked to ensure compliance and best practice is in place.**

## Tips to settle your child into Family Day Care



- ✓ Spend some time with the educator before your child commences care. This may be for an hour (when convenient for educator). This will allow you to relax and get to know the educator more and allow your child some time to explore the new environment, with the security of having you close by.
- ✓ Ask your educator for a trial day or two. Fees may still apply. This may only be for an hour or two, but it will help your child to understand that the educator is there to care for them, and that Mummy/ Daddy or significant person will return soon to collect them. This allows for a gentler transition into care for children, especially those very young.
- ✓ Remember to always send along your child's comforter and/or soother if they have one.
- ✓ Remember to show your child that you are calm and happy that they're going to family day care. Children can sense if you're worried or concerned. Keep drop off and collection times positive.
- ✓ Before arriving prepare your child. Let them know that you will be leaving, and they will be staying to play and make new friends, then you will be collecting them.
- ✓ Should your child begin to show concern or become upset at drop off, reassure them that they will have a great day and you will be back soon.
- ✓ It's best to swiftly leave once you have said goodbye and your child is engaged in play or with others.
- ✓ Check in with your child's educator, keep communication open and ask questions. This is great for you, your child and your educator and only strengthens your relationships, strengthening your child's transition.

