

Resource: Are You Ready to Start a Child Care Business?

This checklist is meant to help you think about the reasons why you want to open a family child care business and if it is the right choice for you and your family. There are both personal and professional considerations for you to think about as you start your journey.

Personal Considerations

Opening a family child care business can impact your entire family. Think through these considerations as you complete the checklist below.

	Yes	No	Unsure
Do you have a passion for helping children and their parents?			
Do you enjoy being with young children and have the patience to care for them for many hours each day?			
Do you have the necessary education and training requirements for a family child care provider in your state?			
Are you able to get along with multiple types of parents and children, even if their parenting style or culture is different than yours?			
Do you have the physical and emotional strength to run a family child care business?			
If you have children or other people in your life that need you during child care hours of operation, have you identified someone to care for them if they become sick or need something?			
Do you have a positive attitude, even when things don't go your way?			
Does your family support your decision?			
If your children are old enough, have you talked to them about the possibility of a family child care business in your home?			
If you are considering using your home as the family child care business, have you thought about which areas of your home you would use?			
If you use your own home and have children of your own, will your children have their own space separate from the child care program when needed?			

Are You Ready to Open a Child Care Business *continued*

	Yes	No	Unsure
If you use your own home and have your own children, do you have a space where your children’s belongings, such as special toys and equipment can be stored away from the toys that belong to the child care?			

Professional Considerations

	Yes	No	Unsure
Are you a self-starter?			
Do you have knowledge and previous experience to run a family child care business?			
Do you know where to go to for training or help in running your child care business?			
Are you comfortable working with licensing requirements and government regulations pertaining to child care?			
Do you have the time to learn the skills you need or are you willing to hire people with different skill sets that you need to have a successful family child care business?			
Are you able to plan and organize well? Think about having multiple children in your home all day and how you would plan for them.			
Are you comfortable with the potential legal, professional, and personal risks associated with starting a new business?			
Have you undertaken similar responsibilities that have demonstrated that you have the drive and determination needed to make your business successful?			
Do you have access to funds you may need to start your business?			
Are you aware of the required amount of business and professional liability insurance you need for your business?			

Next Steps:

If you checked **“Yes”** to all the items, you are probably ready to continue exploring the next steps in starting your family child care business!

If you checked **“No”** or **“Not Sure”** to some of the items, reach out to your local [Child Care Resource and Referral \(CCR&R\)](#) agency for help.