



JANE BROWN
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Child Care Options - Family and Relatives

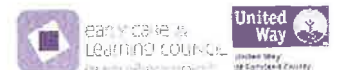
Having a relative or a friend care for your child – in your home or theirs – is an option for some families. In general, family and friends child care arrangements are not regulated, and you can work out creative pay arrangements, such as reciprocal care. Remember that if you hire a friend, you need to talk to an accountant about your tax obligations and other IRS requirements.

As with any child care arrangement, be sure to discuss your mutual expectations in advance, including such concerns as the schedule of care, payment or other compensation, discipline, nutrition, TV policy, safety, toilet training and more. Good communication with caregivers is important in the success of any child care situation, but is critical with relatives and friends because of the personal nature of your relationship with them.

Some questions to consider are:

- Does this person have any previous child care experience?
- What salary and benefits can you offer?
- Do you have an open, honest relationship with this person? Will you be able to discuss difficult issues as they arise?
- Is this person committed to taking care of your child for an extended period of time?
- Will other adults or teens be present with your child, and do you feel comfortable with this?

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