



# Family, Friend & Neighbor Care

[www.qualitycareforchildren.org](http://www.qualitycareforchildren.org)

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Many children are now being cared for by family, friends, and neighbors in home settings. Family, friend, and neighbor care is also known as "kith and kin" care or "informal care," as opposed to the care provided in more formal and professional center-based and family child care markets. Some of these options may include:

- Relatives
- Friends
- Neighbors
- Informal Caregivers
- Babysitters

Although quality indicators are in place for registered caregivers, there are no regulations for providers who are paid to take care of one or two children. The following is a checklist that may be used in case alternative care is an option for you.

## FAMILY, FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR CARE CHECKLIST

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Does caregiver have any experience caring for children (including her own children)?       | <input type="checkbox"/> Has parent worked out emergency procedures with caregiver? Does caregiver have emergency numbers?       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Does caregiver understand what children can or cannot do at different stages of growth?    | <input type="checkbox"/> Does caregiver have clean and comfortable environment?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> How many children will be in caregiver's care when child is present?                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Does caregiver have first aid kit, smoke detector, fire extinguisher and other health and safety items? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is there enough space indoors and outdoors for all the children to move freely and safely? | <input type="checkbox"/> Does caregiver have an alternate exit in case of fire?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Will caregiver encourage good health habits, such as washing hands before eating?          | <input type="checkbox"/> Does caregiver know age appropriate activities?   |

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