



Who is Caring for Your Child?

It is common for children to experience different childcare situations throughout their life. While many children receive care in licensed childcare centers and preschools, many are in settings that are, for the most part, not regulated. This type of childcare is referred to as informal care. This is often provided by grandmothers, aunts and other relatives, as well as friends and neighbors. In many cases, the caregiver may be a significant other. Children have many developmental milestones and will reach them at their own pace. Be sure to choose a provider who will not become frustrated by the stress of these stages. Consider the following when deciding who to leave your child with.

DOES THE PERSON CARING FOR YOUR CHILD:

- Yell at or hit your child?
- Not like your child?
- Talk negatively about your child?
- Talk negatively to your child?
- Have secrets with your child?
- Hurt you?
- Use alcohol or drugs?
- Have a criminal history?
- Get angry often?
- Lack experience taking care of children?
- Have unrealistic expectations of your child?
- Criticize your parenting?

DOES YOUR CHILD:

- Cry, protest, complain or make excuses not to be left alone with the informal caregiver?
- Cry when he/she has to go home and the informal caregiver or your partner is there?
- Act fearful, nervous or anxious around your informal caregiver or partner?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may want to look into other childcare arrangements.

SHARING YOUR HOME

There are many reasons you may want someone to live with you and your child, but be careful. Any person you invite into your home will also impact the life of your child. They may be kind and loving to you and still be a danger to your child. Before sharing your home with someone, take time to answer the questions below.

DOES YOUR PARTNER:

- Enjoy spending time with you and your child?
- Say nice things to your child?
- Talk to your child in a respectful way?
- Know your child's daily activities?
- Provide attention to your child through positive words and actions?
- Listen to your child and respect his/her feelings?
- Use positive discipline?
- Make your child feel safe and secure?

DOES YOUR CHILD:

- Look forward to spending time with both of you?
- Enjoy being at home?
- Openly share feelings and concerns?
- Treat others with respect?

The answers to these questions are very important to consider as are the feelings of both you and your child. For a list of licensed child care providers, call Childcare Aware of Kansas at 1-877-678-2548.

For more online tip cards, visit kcsf.org under the "Resources" tab.

Parenting questions? Call the Parent Helpline.

1-800-CHILDREN or email/text 1800children@kcsf.org



Kansas Children's Service League



Prevent Child Abuse
Kansas
A chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America



Kansas
Department for Children
and Families
Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas