

Backup Quality Child Care: Planning Ahead

Unanticipated Disruptions

There are many times when you won't be able to predict your need for backup care.

- Your child becomes ill.
- Your child care provider has a sudden emergency.
- Your child's day care center or school is closed for inclement weather.
- You have to go out of town on business and need additional care.

How to Plan for Unanticipated Disruptions

If your regular provider cannot help you with backup options, you can begin exploring your choices with a call to the child care resource and referral agency in your county. They will be able to tell you if there are any providers in your community that provide backup care. Child Care Connection is the child care resource and referral agency (CCR&R) for Mercer County.

Family Child Care Providers

Some family child care providers are able to assist with child care on short notice. Some providers may have space available because of part time attendance. The child care resource and referral agency in your county can help you explore this type of backup care. Child Care Connection is the child care resource and referral (CCR&R) agency for Mercer County.

Child Care Centers

Some child care centers offer backup child care or drop in-care in addition to their regular child care programs. Some may open this service to the public on a temporary basis. Pre-registration is required and visiting in advance is encouraged.

School Age Holiday/ Vacation Care

Some school age programs are open for holidays and school vacation weeks. These programs are often designed to be more like camps than child care centers. Enrollment is on a first come, first serve basis, and care is often provided in a community building.

In-home and Nanny Agencies

There are agencies in your community that recruit and train professional providers to offer permanent in-home child care. These agencies may also send a provider on very short notice for temporary situations. You may be able to use an in-home or nanny agency to care for your children when they're sick as well as when they're healthy.

For more information regarding available options or to speak to a referral counselor, please contact us @
609-989-8101



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