



# Parent Voices Give Children Choices

Be In The Know!

New Jersey Child Care Fact Sheet #2

## The Facts About Family Child Care Regulations In New Jersey

### Did You Know?

Family Child Care is a valuable child care resource for families in New Jersey. Currently:

- Family child care registration is voluntary. Family child care providers are encouraged, but not required, to register with regulatory bodies. There are approximately 2,100 registered family child care homes in New Jersey serving over 10,600 children annually (NJACCRRRA State of Child Care Report, 2014).
- To become a registered family child care provider, providers must participate in an eight hour pre-service training, obtain certification in CPR and first aid, and attend at least 8 hours of in-service training annually.
- Registered family child care providers can serve up to five children in their home.
- Registered family child care homes are inspected once every two years, with random annual monitoring conducted on at least 20 percent of homes in any given year.
- Family child care providers, their assistant caregivers and other adult members of their households are not required to undergo background checks to screen for a criminal or violent history that could threaten the welfare of a child in the family child care home. A bill was recently passed by the Senate (Bill #2027) that would require all registered family child care providers to undergo a background check. A companion bill (A-3238) is now awaiting approval in the Assembly.
- In a Child Care Aware of America report, *Leaving Children to Chance: 2012 Update Ranking of State Standards and Oversight of Small Family Child Care Homes*, NJ ranks 52nd in the nation due to their lack of mandatory registration, lack of mandatory fingerprinting and background checks and minimal oversight of their family child care homes.

### What You Can Do To Be In The Know:

To learn more about what you can do to help strengthen Family Child Care regulations in New Jersey:

- Visit the New Jersey Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies website ([www.njaccrra.org](http://www.njaccrra.org)) to learn more about Parent Voices, child care, and how you can get involved;
- Join Parent Voices New Jersey by contacting your local child care resource and referral agency or visiting [www.njaccrra.org/parentvoices](http://www.njaccrra.org/parentvoices) for a list of Parent Voices NJ Chapters;
- Become a friend of NJACCRRRA on Facebook and follow us on Twitter;
- Send frequent messages via email, regular mail, or by phone to elected officials regarding your concern over the lack of family child care regulations. **Support the passage of Assembly Bill A-3238 which will require family child care providers and other adult members of their households to undergo criminal background checks.**
- Visit with your representatives to discuss child care issues and concerns and urge them to support key legislation;
- Testify before legislative and budget committees;
- Participate in Town Hall meetings;
- Write letters to the editor on issues related to child care to get more people informed and involved; and
- Encourage other parents to join Parent Voices New Jersey!

Parent Voices, a project of NJACCRRRA, is a parent driven initiative that represents the interests and needs of New Jersey families. Parent Voices empowers parents to advocate for access to high quality and affordable child care that supports learning for healthy growth and development, ensures safety, and promotes future independence for families. The New Jersey Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NJACCRRRA) is New Jersey's network of child care resource and referral agencies. For more information on how you can get involved and become a strong child care advocate contact the Parent Voices Representative at your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency.