

Essential Components of Quality Infant & Toddler Caregiving in the Family Child Care Setting

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Introduction

- Introduce Yourself
- What Motivates You at Work?
- What Impacts the Quality of Your Job Performance?

Links to Quality Caregiving in Family Child Care

- Joy
- Creativity
- Motivation
- Passion
- Relationships with Other Adults with Shared Interests
- Community Connections
- Respect
- Compensation
- Control of Work Destiny
- Commitment to Learning
- Benefits (Medical, Retirement, Dental, Group Purchasing, etc.)
- Healthy Self-Esteem

Links to Quality Caregiving in Family Child Care

- Good Working Conditions - Vacations, Substitutes, Days Off
- Time Away to Recharge and Refresh
- Professional Goals
- Desire to Learn New Things
- Genuine Interest in People
- Skills at Problem Solving
- Self Reflective and Self Regulating
- Maturity
- Optimism
- Partnerships with Families

Why Have I Not Mentioned Children Yet?

- ??????????????????
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Barriers to Quality

- Stress
- Conflicting Demands
- External Pressures
- Financial Concerns
- Excessive Requirements
- Changing Demands
- Unmet Basic Needs
- Lack of Safety and Stability
- Low Self-Esteem
- Employed by Default Not Choice
- Family Child Caregiving Not Intentional
- Desire to Control vrs. Collaborate
- Avoidance of Adults
- Isolation
- Unmet Emotional Needs
- Excessive Adverse Childhood Experiences – ACE

And Now for Infants and Toddler Needs.....

- **Intentionality**
- Genuine Interest and Care
- Adults That Can Be Trusted
- Sensory Motor Experiences
- **Enriching Outdoor and Indoor Environments and Time Outside**
- **Understanding of Role of Adverse Childhood Experiences – ACE (Childhood Trauma) on Behavior**
- Excellent Nutrition
- Freedom and Choice
- **Support for RISK - Taking**
- Safety but Not Sterility
- Access to Authentic and Natural Materials and Experiences
- Support for Non-Traditional Behaviors

And Now for Infants and Toddler Needs.....

- Harmony Between the Adults in Their Lives
- Predictable Routines
- Understanding of Developmental Stages
- Anticipation of Next Steps and Developmental Needs
- Understanding of Gender Differences Between Boys and Girls
- Parent Supportive Care
- **Trust in Infant and Toddler Abilities to Know What They Need**
- Time to Practice
- **Adults that Understand That in Infants and Toddlers, “Wants are Needs”**
- Not Being Labeled, Stereotyped or Prejudged
- Cultural Relevance

Adverse Childhood Experiences

ACE SCORE

Did a parent or other adult in the household often or very often... Swear at you, insult you, put you down, or humiliate you? or Act in a way that made you afraid that you might be physically hurt?
No ___ If Yes, enter 1 __

Did a parent or other adult in the household often or very often... Push, grab, slap, or throw something at you? or Ever hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured?
No ___ If Yes, enter 1 __

Did an adult or person at least 5 years older than you ever... Touch or fondle you or have you touch their body in a sexual way? or Attempt or actually have oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you?
No ___ If Yes, enter 1 __

Did you often or very often feel that ... No one in your family loved you or thought you were important or special? or Your family didn't look out for each other, feel close to each other, or support each other?
No ___ If Yes, enter 1 __

Did you often or very often feel that ... You didn't have enough to eat, had to wear dirty clothes, and had no one to protect you? or Your parents were too drunk or high to take care of you or take you to the doctor if you needed it?
No ___ If Yes, enter 1 __

Were your parents ever separated or divorced?
No ___ If Yes, enter 1 __

Was your mother or stepmother:
Often or very often pushed, grabbed, slapped, or had something thrown at her? or Sometimes, often, or very often kicked, bitten, hit with a fist, or hit with something hard? or Ever repeatedly hit over at least a few minutes or threatened with a gun or knife?
No ___ If Yes, enter 1 __

Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic, or who used street drugs?
No ___ If Yes, enter 1 __

Was a household member depressed or mentally ill, or did a household member attempt suicide?
No ___ If Yes, enter 1 __

Did a household member go to prison?
No ___ If Yes, enter 1 __

Now add up your "Yes" answers: _ This is your ACE Score

Myths

- Years of Experience Not Always Linked to Quality
- Parent Ratings Not Always Related to Quality
(Parent Over-Rate Cost, Convenience, Schedule)
- More External Regulations Lead to Higher Quality
- Rating Scales Without the Understanding of “Why” May Not Lead to Higher Quality

Strategies for Quality

- Specialized Training and Education
- Culturally and Language Specific Opportunities
- Career Selection and Screening Out
- Mentoring
- Networking and Self Care Opportunities
- Understanding of Child Development
- Community Support for Financial Stability
- Social and Resource Connections
- Intentionality