

Curriculum and Activities

Family child care providers in Camden and Monmouth Counties gathered to share experiences, questions and ideas for curriculum and activities in their program.

Providers talked about:

- Experiences with mixed ages as well as specific curriculum for mixed ages in a home child care setting, and one provider noted, “You will have to adjust your curriculum to better support children of different ages and abilities.”
- One said, “Be mindful that you need to keep an eye on the children’s engagement, if they are not interested in or engaged in the activity it may be time to move on to the next activity or adjust the current one.”
- Some activities: Jack Hartman, floor is lava, dancing activity, circle time, environmental questions in the morning to get their blood flowing, art activity, activity boards, colors, shapes, numbers, etc.
- Other tips from providers included:
 - Socialization- it is extremely important to communicate with children- even at a young age.
 - Sometimes it is easier to work with children in smaller groups based on age/ ability vs. working on activities in large groups
 - Potty training:
 - Communicate with families about your potty-training plans- it is best if potty training is done as a partnership with the parents so that the child is receiving the same support throughout the day
 - Involve the parents!
 - Be sure that you have extra clothes in care in the case of accidents.
 - Take children to potty every 2 hours, praising when successful and addressing the situation calmly when unsuccessful

Resources shared include:

- Check out the ERSI website to get some ideas of what you might want your care space to look like: https://ersi.info/fccers3_notes.html
- Check out the Shared Resources platform for curriculum and activity support: <https://www.njsharedresources.org/utility-pages/log-in/?redirectUrl=/>
- Please reach out to a CCR representative in your county to talk some more about your experiences!

School Age Child Care for Summer

Family child care providers in Camden and Monmouth Counties gathered to share questions and ideas as the last day of school approaches and families will have different child care needs.

Providers talked about:

- The challenge of curriculum vs technology. Older kids rely on cell phones and iPads during the day, for instance.

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- One suggestion shared by a provider was to have a box where the kids leave their phones and offer them small segments throughout the day that they are permitted to use them. The rest of the day is spent on other planned activities.
- Staying within ratio and group size capacity when part time care goes to full time in the summer.

Resources shared include:

- NJSACC - Resource Page which includes the link for a Summer Activity Guide:
<https://www.njsacc.org/resources/>
- NJAEYC Shared Resources in the FCC Tool Kit under Classroom & Activities:
<https://www.njsharedresources.org/>
- Call your local CCR if you are looking for more support!

Boosting Enrollment

Family child care providers in Camden and Monmouth Counties gathered to share questions and ideas about getting to full enrollment in their family child care programs.

Providers talked about:

- a. Creating a Facebook page or post on Mom groups
- b. Placing flyers (with permission)
 - i. At a post office, in stores and small businesses (with managers permission)
 - ii. Nursing Home, hospital break room (with permission)
 - iii. Places where parents may frequent (nail, hair salon, barbershop)
 - iv. Local Gym (Planet Fitness, Edge Gym, Anytime)
 - v. Churches, Synagogues, Mosques or other houses of worship
- c. Talk with local school districts
- d. Creating Tee shirts (staff and children)
- e. Business cards
- f. Advertising in local newspaper
- g. Word of mouth (you must talk about yourself and what you offer)

Resources shared include:

- Bright Wheel
- My Kidz Day
- Considerations In Setting Tuition Rates ([English](#)) ([Español](#))
- Calculating the Cost Per Child ([English](#)) ([Español](#))
- Also, the online FCC toolkit includes a [marketing tab](#) with an array of resources.

Bookkeeping, Records, and Paperwork

Family child care providers in Camden and Monmouth Counties gathered to share questions and ideas about navigating the paperwork involved in running a business and maintaining compliance with state and local requirements.

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Providers talked about:

- Concerns about using a lot of paper. Some items that are required by the state are able to be submitted electronically on NJCCIS.com (in your “file cabinet”).

Business tips included:

- Time-space percentage is important to understand for tax purposes. Time is more than just the time you care for kids (e.g. preparing the weekly plan for kids, cleaning before they come and after they leave, taking online courses or workshops, or even time spent googling to find out more about health & safety like COVID protocols- that's time invested in your business).
- Read more about the time-space percentage.
- If you provide meals and snacks for the children in your care: the CACFP program provides reimbursement for many of the items and ingredients, and comes with free training and support for your effort to provide..

Resources shared include:

- Tom Copeland did a series of trainings for us to help FCC’ s better understand taxes. To see the recording please visit: <https://ccrnj.org/monmouth-camden-county-family-child-care-alliance/>
- The NJ Shared Resources platform has many templates that can help you organize your finances: <https://www.njsharedresources.org/utility-pages/log-in/?redirectUrl=/>
 - Record keeping
 - Understanding taxes
 - Profit and loss statements
- There are several online communication platforms that can help to make communication with your families a bit easier such as the MyKidsDay App and BrightWheel. If you are interested in learning more about MyKidsDay app please reach out to a coordinator from your county. In future meetings we plan to spend some time discussing these!
- Learn more about MyKidzDay: [MyKidzDay App Overview \(55 minutes\) Slides](#).

Peer Support

Family child care providers in Camden and Monmouth Counties gathered to share ideas about how to help family child care providers support one another directly.

Providers talked about:

- Creating a directory of area Family Child Care Providers which could contain contact information for a provider and maybe what they do well (i.e. bookkeeping, organization, working with children with disabilities, etc.).
- A “Mentor” program per town/city. The providers would have someone local that they may be able to meet up with to discuss successes, struggles, etc.