

# Ohio Family Child Care Work Group



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The *Ohio Family Child Care Workgroup* recommends:

## Spring '08 "Top Ten" Tips for Providers

about licensing. This list informs providers of the implications of proposed changes to child care home business regulations.

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- 1) **Market Rate Survey Sent in March:** Providers are sent an advance letter, and then the cover letter with the survey is sent in March with instructions. Data will be processed from the returned surveys to determine results. All surveys are expected back by mid April. The preliminary report will be completed by June and the Final report will be completed by September.
- 2) **Governor Strickland Issued Executive Order February 1, 2008 allowing child care providers to form unions and bargain collectively:**  
<http://governor.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Executive%20Orders/Executive%20Order%202008-02S.pdf>
- 3) **Proposed Licensing Legislation:** Did you know that new legislation was recently introduced in the Ohio General Assembly to license family child care home businesses toward improving safety, especially in unregulated family child care homes. The House Bill (HB 342) was sponsored by State Representative Jon Peterson (R-Delaware) and the Senate Bill (SB 232) was sponsored by State Senator Steve Stivers (R-Columbus). Testimony will follow in weeks to come as the bills are considered for vote.
- 4) **Is Licensing Needed?**  
According to the case statement prepared by Action for Children and the Ohio Family Child Care Workgroup (paraphrased), licensing is warranted to ensure that every child in Ohio has child care and early learning experiences that prepare them to succeed and to ensure that all child care providers and settings support children's development.
- 5) **What are the benefits?**
  - ✓ Licensing will raise public awareness of the economic and community value of family child care.
  - ✓ Licensing assures parents that providers and homes meet minimum health and safety standards and that they provide children with stimulating learning experiences.
  - ✓ Licensing connects family child care home providers and families to a network of information about training opportunities in health, safety, and child development.

- 6) **Is Ohio Lagging Behind?** Ohio is one of only five states in the U.S. that does not license small family child care home businesses. An estimated 8000 providers are certified by County Departments of Job & Family Services while an estimated 20,000 providers in Ohio are unregulated.
- 7) **How will my current Certified Type B Home care business be affected?** The new license would place providers in the same licensing system as centers and Type A homes, paying a biennial fee of \$100 (just \$50 per year). If your home business is already certified, it will automatically be licensed for the remainder of your current certification period. Providers would still need a background check and a physician's release.
- 8) **What happens to providers who continue to operate illegally, without a license?** The legislation calls for progressive fines based on the infraction. There would be warnings before fines are imposed. Illegally operating providers would face strong consequences that now are not possible under Ohio law.
- 9) **Make sure to check out these continuing education opportunities:**
- **Teach Scholarship for CDA Assessment:** Any certified Type B Provider who has completed the requirements for the Child Development Associate Credential may apply for a scholarship to cover the cost of the final assessment. Contact your local Child Care Resource & Referral Agency for information about CDA Training opportunities in your area. When you are ready for the assessment contact Elaine Fencl at 1-877-547-6978 Ext. 304 or [efencl@occrra.org](mailto:efencl@occrra.org).
  - **Step Up to Quality:** Voluntary standards are being drafted for Family Child Care Home Businesses. Star-ratings for FCC are in your future.
  - **Ohio Connections: State Family Child Care Association:** Did you know that a statewide group offers networking, training, public policy, and advocacy opportunities for those who make family child care their career? Contact Amelia Rodgers at [hoptownky@earthlink.net](mailto:hoptownky@earthlink.net) or 937-279-9152.
- 6) **About the Family Child Care Work Group: A History.** In 2003 the Child Care Advisory Council of ODJFS and OCCRRA convened the Family Child Care Workgroup facilitated by NCCIC. This group of family child care professionals, state and county agency staff, child care resource & referral staff, early childhood professionals and parents met to develop short term and long-term recommendations. The workgroup focused on health and safety of children and improving the quality of care. The Workgroup developed recommendations to improve the regulatory system, supports and incentives, and public and provider awareness. The Final Recommendations Report was completed in December, 2005 and was supported by the Child Care Advisory Council. The final report was passed to the Director of ODJFS and is available on the ODJFS website at <http://jfs.ohio.gov> and at [www.occrra.org](http://www.occrra.org).

For more information about the Family Child Care Business Work Group, E-mail [cstoneburner@occrra.org](mailto:cstoneburner@occrra.org).

*Now you are .... "In the Know"*

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