

Practices for Preventing Child Abuse And False Allegations of Child Abuse in Your Child Care Home

1. Assure that the best communication possible exists between you and the parents.
2. Communicate with parents each day. Tell them what their child did all day.
3. Encourage parents to talk to their children about their child's day. Encourage parents to talk to you if there is something alarming, or something they don't understand.
4. Inform parents that you are a mandated reporter of suspected child abuse or neglect.
5. Notify the parents that they have a right to come observe their child at any time.
6. Keep a record book to record any injury a child has upon arrival. This documentation will be helpful in the event you are accused of being responsible for an injury or bruise which was present when the child arrived.
7. Create an environment which lends itself to good supervision. Remember to closely supervise those little private places children like so much, the nooks & crannies, both indoors and outdoors.
8. Require that only one child at a time can use the bathroom.

(suggestions from the Association of Minnesota Family Child Care Licensors)

GUIDELINES FOR FAMILY INVOLVEMENT In Licensed Family Child Care Homes

Several times a year our licensing unit receives reports of physical or sexual abuse committed by a child care provider's family member. Reports of abuse must be investigated by child protection and sometimes by the criminal investigative division. A negative action may be taken against the provider's license. The family experiences emotional devastation, whether the report is found to be true or not.

You may think "This could never happen to me." The providers who have experienced this ordeal did not think this could happen to them either.

Parents contract with you, the child care provider – not with your family members such as your teenage sons, daughters, and/or spouse. Therefore, as the primary provider, you are responsible for the care and protection of the children in your care.

Seriously consider how other family members might be involved in your child care. Think about situations in which potential accusations of physical and/or sexual abuse against your family members can occur; for example, diapering, assisting with toileting, changing clothes, interacting with a child in a closed room or other isolated area.

We strongly suggest that you not involve your family members in these "at risk" situations. Instead, they may help in less vulnerable activities such as preparing food, assisting with craft projects, organizing outdoor games, and serving as one of your helpers on a field trip.

We know that you will want to protect yourself and your family. Implementing these guidelines can help.

Anoka County Child Care Licensing