



It's All Relative...

When Your Child Care is Provided by Family...

Choosing Relatives to Care for Your Child

Relative care can sometimes be challenging...

- Relative care can be lonely for the child and your relative.
- Child care raises unexpected and sensitive issues that can complicate family relationships.
- You and your relative may underestimate how time consuming and tiring it is to provide child care.
- Your ideas about discipline may differ.
- Your needs or your relatives' needs may change, and you may need to find another child care arrangement.

Making it work smoothly for everyone...

- Take time to talk regularly, when children are not around.
- Discuss and clarify your ideas about discipline and how you want your relative to set rules and guide your child.
- Talk about your child's daily routines: sleeping, crying, feeding, and playing indoors and outdoors.
- Make sure your relative has the time, energy, and health to keep up with your child.
- Ask if your relative sees this as a long term or short term arrangement.
- Discuss plans with your relative about television, reading, friends, and chores for your child.

Remember: SAFETY FIRST!!

- Double check for child safety in your home and your relative's home. Use a safety check list.
- Prepare for emergencies with a safety plan, a fire extinguisher, medical and allergy information and a list of work, fire, and emergency phone numbers.
- Consider attending a first aid and CPR class together.
- Agree on who may pick up your child.
- Remember, safety for a young child means no hitting or shaking.

Relationships

Families are forever...

Keeping good relationship

- Ask your family member what might be helpful to them in doing child care.
- Call Kent Regional 4C to see what information is available for relative caregivers. Ask about resources like lending libraries, story hours, and community activities.
- If you change child care, remember, your relative caregiver is still family!

Paying a relative for child care...

- You may qualify for assistance in paying for child care from Department of Human Services (DHS.) Call Kent Regional 4C for more information.
- If you qualify for child care assistance from DHS, your relative may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the food that they serve your children through the Kent Regional 4C Child and Adult Care Food Program.
- Be clear about exactly when and how you'll pay your family member
- Write down your agreement so there is no misunderstanding about your arrangements and payments.
- You'll need to agree about holidays, vacations, and sick days for your child or your relative.
- Be creative. In addition to money, what can you do to show your appreciation?
- Learn about sample agreements and tax implications from Kent Regional 4C.

Relative Care Issues

When there are problems...

- Find the right time and place to talk about it, when you are both relaxed.
- Express gratitude for all your family does for your child.
- Keep focus on the child.
- Show respect for your relative's point of view, even when you disagree.
- Think about how to avoid the problem in the future.
- Decide if you are still comfortable with the arrangements or if you will need to start looking for other child care.

You may need to make a change...

- If your relative finds it too hard to take care of your child every day.
- If your ideas and your relatives' ideas about child rearing are very different.
- If your schedule changes.
- If your child isn't receiving healthy meals.
- If it just doesn't work out.

But family is still family...

- Thank your relative for helping.
- Consider asking if your relative could help with backup care.