

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 the 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 everyday.
- * If your child needs a preschool experience with other children.
- * If your schedule changes.
- * 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.



For information on local licensing requirements to ensure compliance with any applicable state regulations, contact your local child care resource and referral agency. Find your local agency by contacting Child Care Aware.

Child Care Aware is a national initiative, conducted by the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA), committed to helping parents find the best information on locating quality child care and child care resources in their community. Child Care Aware, in partnership with local child care resource and referral agencies, builds consumer awareness and supports families in making choices for the care and education of their children.

ChildCareAware™
America's most trusted child care resource.

For more information about Child Care Aware or for help in locating your local child care resource and referral agency, call:

1-800-424-2246
www.ChildCareAware.org

 **Child Care Bureau** Child Care Aware, a non-profit program of NACCRRA, is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Child Care Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

©2001 National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (www.naccrra.org)

All in the Family



Making child care provided by relatives work for your family.

ChildCareAware™
America's most trusted child care resource.

1-800-424-2246 www.ChildCareAware.org



Why parents often choose a relative caregiver...

- * **Comfort** because children are generally more at ease with people they know.
- * **Love and attention** if it's a close family member who has a genuine affection for your child.
- * **Trust** because you know them well and you know what values you share.
- * **Flexibility** to meet your schedule, especially if it is part-time, evening hours or rotating shifts.
- * **Familiar location** in your or a relative's home.

There can also be problems...

- * 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.
- * Ideas about discipline may differ.
- * Children's needs change as they grow, and you may need to change child care arrangements.

Making it work smoothly for everyone...

- * Take time to talk regularly, when children are not around.
- * Discuss and clarify your ideas about discipline with your relative, including how you want them to set rules and guide your child.
- * Talk about your child's daily routines: sleep, crying, feeding, and outdoor play.
- * 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 or a relative's home. Use a safety checklist.
- * Prepare for emergencies with a safety plan; a fire extinguisher; medical and allergy information; and a list of work, fire, and emergency phone numbers.
- * Agree on who may pick up your child.
- * Remember, safety for a young child means no hitting or shaking.
- * Babies should be placed on their backs to sleep.
- * Count numbers! If your relative is caring for children other than your own, group size should be considered.

Paying a relative for child care should be in an agreement.

- * 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 relative.
- * Be creative. In addition to money, what can you do to show your appreciation?
- * Learn about sample agreements and tax implications from your local child care resource and referral agency.

Families are forever... Keeping good relationships.

- * Offer to pay for a first aid and CPR class.
- * Ask your family member what might be helpful to them in providing child care.
- * Call your child care resource & referral agency to see what information is available for relative caregivers. Ask about resources like toy libraries, story hours, community activities, and opportunities to network with family child care providers.
- * If you change child care, remember, your relative caregiver is still family!

