

Family Childcare Provider M.A.T.C.H Project

Mentoring. Advising. Teaching. Coaching. Helping.

Mentoring is a relationship based process between colleagues in similar professional roles, with a more experienced individual with adult learning knowledge and skills, the mentor, providing guidance and example to the less-experienced mentee. Mentoring is intended to increase an individual's personal or professional capacity, resulting in greater professional effectiveness.

Program Mission Statement

To maintain a structured, volunteer-based, peer mentoring program to encourage and enhance quality family child care within the community.

Purpose:

The family childcare provider mentor project is to serve as a directory to match up experienced family daycare providers with those just starting their daycare program or even long time providers who need assistance with business practices. Running a child care program from your home can be an isolating experience. Even if you have had a strong educational background in child development or child care, chances are that you might not have had much training or experience in running a business. This is an opportunity to interact and get one on one feedback from someone who has the experience and is comfortable guiding others to success.

Program Goals

1. Improve the quality of child care available for all children
2. Increase provider skill, knowledge and professional development
3. Increase provider retention by supporting a viable career path for providers

Program Benefits:

Benefits for Participants

- Personalized, one-on-one technical assistance with a trained, knowledgeable provider
- On-going support and encouragement to increase their skill, knowledge and confidence as a provider

Benefits for Mentors

- Gain personal and professional experience with relationship skills, business skills and
- The ability to pass on your knowledge and skills to current providers and to encourage providers to stay in the early learning and education field

Benefits for Parents

- Caregivers trained to communicate and support clients and their families.
- A larger base of higher quality early learning programs available in the home

Benefits for Children

- More capable and better trained caregivers.
- A more stable environment due to lower provider turnover

Program Overview

Participants

The Mentoring program offers information, encouragement, and an opportunity to interact and get one-on-one feedback and support from someone who has years of training and experience in the early childhood field. Whether you are a soon-to-be licensed provider, or have been licensed for 5+ years, you are eligible to sign-up and be matched with an experienced mentor.

All Olmsted County and neighboring counties' in-home Family Child Care providers with plans to become licensed, and all family or group in-home providers licensed under the Department of Human Services regulations are eligible to participate in the M.A.T.C.H Mentoring Program.

M.A.T.C.H. Mentors accepted into the program must:

- Currently operate a licensed family child care OR must have owned/operated an active family child care within the past 5 years.
- Must be a member of FCCI and be willing to support FCCI's mission
- Have been licensed for at least 5 years.
- Have NO negative actions
- Apply to be a mentor through FCCI
- Sign/agree to the written guidelines
- Maintain professionalism

What will you do as a M.A.T.C.H. Mentor?

Mentors and mentees will establish a meaningful, professional relationship through respectful communication and shared activities.

As a mentor you will possibly provide assistance and guidance on...

- Business coaching (policy, contracts & forms)
- How to advertise openings and interview prospective families
- Ideas for preschool curriculum, projects, play-based learning activities & other program planning
- Ideas on environment set-up and organization tips
- Communicating effectively with parents
- Behavioral concerns
- Participant's goals

As a mentor you will receive a Mentor Guide which will include materials that you may share with your assigned mentees.

To sign-up as a M.A.T.C.H Mentor or to be matched with an experienced mentor, visit www.fccimn.com/mentor-program

Program Collaborations

Families First of Minnesota