

# Why Choose Family Child Care?



Below are reasons home-based settings help support children's healthy development.

- ❖ **Mixed-age:** The mixed-age model of family child care supports play among children of different age groups. Older children practice empathy, strengthen leadership skills, and exercise flexibility while younger children engage in more complex play, learn problem-solving skills, and advance language development. Additionally, the mixed-age model of family child care encourages sibling bonding, which can help support families at home as well.
- ❖ **Consistency:** Children in family child care settings experience one consistent early care and education professional throughout their early years. Trusting, stable relationships with adults are a critical component of healthy social-emotional development. Families also benefit by developing strong, long-lasting partnerships with one consistent early care and education professional.
- ❖ **Small group size:** Smaller groups of children in child care settings are consistently connected with higher-quality care and positive child outcomes because children experience more warm social interactions and one-on-one attention.
- ❖ **Home-like environment:** The transition from home to child care is tempered with the familiar home-based setting of family child care. The cozy home-like environment helps children feel safe and comfortable to explore, learn, and grow.
- ❖ **Individualized learning:** Children have space to learn at their own pace in family child care environments due to the mixed-age model and smaller group size. Through active exploration, children of many ages collaborate with one another and normalize individual differences.