

Things to Consider When Setting Rates

4-C's Mission is to promote children's well-being by advocating for quality, affordable child care. We support parents and those providing child care by offering information, education, resources and services.

*Serving Carroll,
DeKalb, Lee,
McHenry, Ogle and
Whiteside Counties.*

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Services



Child care providers may not know how much to charge parents for child care. They want to be competitive and also make a living providing quality child care. Listed below are some things to think about when setting rates. Keep in mind that rates can be adjusted at any time.

1. Decide how much you need to earn and set a realistic goal. 4-C can provide you with current information on what the average rate is for child care in your area.
2. Consider charging different rates for different age groups. For example, the cost of infant care may be higher because of the level of care needed.
3. Consider including the cost of additional insurance as part of the child care fees.
4. Think about the benefits you might be offering in your family child care home:
 - Have a license to do child care from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
 - Provide care during non-traditional hours and/or on the weekend
 - Accept children part time, or on a temporary/as needed basis
 - Provide infant formula, diapers, wipes and other supplies
 - Serve nutritious meals to the children
 - Follow a specific preschool curriculum
 - Expose the children to other languages
 - Provide transportation to and from school or preschool
 - Offer special activities such as field trips, after school activities, etc.
5. Consider your level of expertise and professional achievements:
 - Amount and type of child care experience
 - Level of Education
 - Early childhood education
 - Credentials such as the Child Development Associate (CDA) or Gateways to Opportunity Credentials
 - Child care training and conferences in excess of 15 hours that is required by DCFS
 - Quality Rating through the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Quality Rating System (QRS)
 - National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) Accreditation