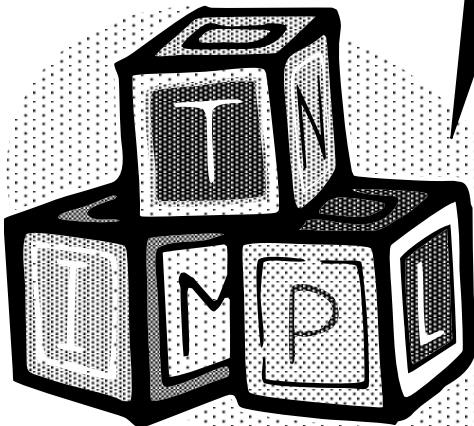


# Daycare Provider

**D**o you like being with children? Do you like playing games with children? Do you like to read children's books? Being a day care provider could be the career for you!

A day care provider keeps children happy and safe while their parents are at work. They play with the children, read to them, and sing with them. Day care providers help the children with lunch and snacks. They try to give the children a safe, healthy, and fun place to be.

A day care provider must be patient, creative, and be able to nurture children. They may be on their feet most of the time. They need to have energy to keep up with the children. Most of all they must like children.



## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The training needed to be a day care provider differs from state to state. A high school diploma is enough in most states. Some employers want you to have an associate's degree in early childhood education. Other places will train you on the job. They may ask you to take childcare classes. Some classes are offered through the Red Cross, high schools, and vocational schools. You need to see what training the day care center wants you to have.

## OUTLOOK AND EARNINGS

There are many jobs for day care providers. Day care centers, nursery schools, preschools, hospitals, and before and after school programs hire day care workers. The income depends on

how much training and experience you have. It also depends on the place you work. Most of the time you can start at \$6.50 per hour or more. With experience, you could earn even more.

Some day care providers who become managers can earn more money. To open your own center, you will probably need a license from the state. You need to find out what your state wants you to do.

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## MORE INFORMATION

If you want more information talk to teachers or staff at a day care center. You can also contact your state department of human services or social services. ■