

What is a Family Day Care Educator?

ENGLISH



Australian Government
Department of Education and Training



NSW FAMILY DAY CARE
ASSOCIATION INC.

FAMILY DAY CARE EDUCATOR TOOLKIT:

What is a Family Day Care Educator?

A Family Day Care educator is a person who provides approved early childhood education and care to children (mostly young children who are yet to start school) in the educator's own home. Family Day Care services have operated in Australia for over 40 years. Families enrol their children in Family Day Care while they are working, training or studying.

Family Day Care educators provide approved early childhood education and care for children in home settings

Becoming a Family Day Care educator can be a great way of earning an income. You can be in charge of your own working life while caring for and educating children in your own home. You would also be helping the children's families attend to work or study commitments.

As a Family Day Care educator you can care for up to seven children (including your own children under 13 years of age) with no more than four children preschool age or under.

Caring for children is an important job. You can make a difference in their lives by providing quality care and learning experiences in a safe environment.

Family Day Care educators do much more than just play with children. They support children's learning through the play options they provide and are also responsible for each child's health and welfare while they are in their care.

Family Day Care educators are connected to families via a Family Day Care service

Because looking after children is such an important job, when you become a Family Day Care educator, you must first become part of an approved Family Day Care service. The Family Day Care service will provide you with support and training and refer families to you. They will also check how you look after and educate the children in your care. They also receive the fees from parents and then pay you. They also administer the Australian Government's child care fee assistance on behalf of eligible families.

It is your choice which Family Day Care service you sign up with. It is important that you choose a Family Day Care service that you trust to support you and to do the right thing.

Family Day Care services engage educators as either employees or as small business contractors. Running a Family Day Care business is like running your own small business from home.

Family Day Care services must ensure their educators comply with all of their policies and procedures and with Family Assistance Law.

The government provides subsidies for families using approved Family Day Care

The Australian Government provides eligible families using approved Family Day Care with subsidies to help reduce the cost of the fees services charge. As a Family Day Care educator, you need to keep accurate attendance records for each child you care for, to make sure you and your Family Day Care service are not breaking Family Assistance Law.

There is a National Quality Standard for education and care services

Because it is important that children receive the best education and care possible, there is a system in place to ensure that most education and care services, including Family Day Care, are working to improve the quality of education and care children receive. There is a minimum standard that all services are working to exceed – the National Quality Standard for Education and Care Services.

The National Quality Standard helps educators to understand how to provide the best education and care in the best environment possible to support children to develop learn and grow.



IMPORTANT POINTS

- ▶ Family Day Care educators provide approved early childhood education and care for other people's children in the educators own homes.
- ▶ Educators are registered with and work under the guidance and support of an approved Family Day Care service.
- ▶ Family Day Care services engage educators as either employees or as small business contractors.
- ▶ The Australian Government provides child care subsidies to eligible families to help them with the cost of approved Family Day Care. The Family Day Care service must pass on the subsidies as fee reductions for families who have chosen this option.
- ▶ Being an educator is a rewarding job. You can make a difference by providing children with quality care and learning experiences in a safe environment.
- ▶ Family Day Care is highly regulated – educators and services have to comply with a number of laws and regulations to ensure the integrity of the Australian Government subsidies and to ensure children are well cared for in a safe environment
- ▶ It is important that you understand what you are taking on when you become a Family Day Care educator. You need to consider the financial and legal aspects of it – if you have any doubts about what you are asked to do by your Family Day Care service, ask.
- ▶ If you think you are being asked to do something fraudulent or against the law, you can call the tip off line on **1800 664 231** or email: **tipoffline@education.gov.au**
- ▶ The best way to ensure that you are supported in your work as a Family Day Care educator is to sign up with a Family Day Care service that will support you and one that you can trust.

