

It's OK to be Neighborly

An Explanation of the Family Child Care 10 hour Limit

<p>Confused?</p> <p>Have you been asked to watch a friend's child for a few hours each week, but been afraid that you might have to become a Family Child Care Provider?</p> <p>Have neighbors asked if you would take care of their children while they go on vacation for a week, but you weren't sure you were allowed?</p> <p>There seems to be a lot of confusion... family members thinking they must be certified, when all they want to do is help a friend.</p> <p>Good News!</p> <p>It is not - and never has been - the intent of Child Development Services to eliminate such "good neighbor" favors.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>When can I watch my friend's children? When can I leave my children with a friend?</p> <p>It has always been an Army tradition to help each other. Short-term childcare is no exception. Neighbors can watch children while parents, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend a class • Go shopping • Have a doctor's appointment • Participate in recreational activities • Take weekend trips or vacations • Go on occasional short field exercises </div>	<p>The Ten Hour Limit</p> <p>The Army has a responsibility to balance the ability of families to rely on one another to meet their short-term child-care needs with protecting the safety and well being of children.</p> <p>There is a difference between watching children a few hours each week and providing child care services as a profession.</p> <p>National studies show that specialized training and outside monitoring are two key indicators of providing quality care to children on regularly scheduled child-care settings.</p> <p>Therefore, a 10-hour childcare limit has been established to protect children from being in unregulated childcare settings on an on-going basis.</p> <p>Simply Stated:</p> <p>The 10-hour limit means any family member living in government quarters providing childcare for more than 10 childcare hours per week on a regular basis must be certified as a Family Child Care Provider.</p> <p>A "child care hour" is defined as one child for ten hours per week, two children for five hours per week, etc. Children from the same family count as one child.</p> <p>If you watch a friend's child all day once, you provide childcare for more than ten hours, but you do not do it on a regular basis. You do not need to be an FCC provider. If you watch one child one hour per day, you provide care on a regular basis, but you do not exceed the 10-hour limit per week. You do not need to be an FCC provider.</p> <p>So go ahead - It's OK to watch your neighbor's children - it's OK to be neighborly.</p>
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This information was taken from: Parents' Consumer Bulletin, Development Services, U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center, Alexandria, VA 22331