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For more information about license-exempt child care providers, visit [www.del.wa.gov/care/family/](http://www.del.wa.gov/care/family/)

**License-exempt care fast facts**

About 20 percent of families eligible for WCCC child care subsidies choose license-exempt child care providers.

In August 2011:

- 6,813 children were cared for in their own home by 3,185 license-exempt providers
- 2,718 children were cared for in a relative's home by 1,295 license-exempt providers

*Note: Providers have up to one year to bill the state for subsidized child care services, so these data may not reflect the total amounts of children served or total number of providers.*

Families who receive Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidy may choose from a variety of child care. Families may choose licensed child care centers or family child care homes, or license-exempt providers. License-exempt providers are also referred to as "in-home and relative providers."

Families may choose license-exempt care for a number of reasons, including:

- Existing bonds of love and trust with a family member, friend or neighbor
- Shared language, culture, and values
- A better match for their child and family when the child has special needs
- Greater flexibility to meet non-traditional work hours

The federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), a main source of funding for WCCC, requires states to allow parental choice of child care providers. CCDF regulations define child care provider as one who provides care either in a center, a group home, a family home or in the child's own home. Care by a sectarian provider, a relative provider and any other type of legally provided child care are allowable choices. States may limit the use of in-home care.

License-exempt providers are covered by the state's collective bargaining agreement with the Service Employees International Union 925.

**License-exempt providers may provide care as follows:**

<b>(A) In child's home only</b>	<b>(B) In provider's home or child's home</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relatives/family members other than those listed in Column B</li> <li>• Friends</li> <li>• Neighbors</li> <li>• Nannies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult siblings who live outside the child's home</li> <li>• Extended Tribal family members</li> <li>• Grandparent</li> <li>• Great-grandparent</li> <li>• Aunt or uncle; great-aunt or great-uncle</li> </ul>

License-exempt providers are not regulated by the state. If a family that qualifies for WCCC chooses a license-exempt provider, the family is responsible for:

- Monitoring the quality, health and safety of care
- Reviewing and signing weekly attendance records kept by the provider
- Ensuring that child care occurs in the appropriate home

To be paid child care subsidies, license-exempt providers:

- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Must be a citizen or a legal resident of the United States
- Must pass a Department of Social and Health Services background check

If care occurs in the provider's home:

- Anyone over 16 who lives in the home also must pass a background check.
- The provider must be physically and mentally healthy enough to meet all the needs of the child in care.
- The provider may not be the child's biological parent, step-parent, adoptive parent, legal guardian, in-loco parentis, or the spouse of any of these individuals.
- May care for children birth through age 12.
- May bill for no more than six children at one time.
- Must keep daily attendance records, and review them with the consumer every week.
- Must pass background checks every two years before being re-approved to care for children.

License-exempt child care hourly subsidy rates:

- First child: \$2.20
- Additional children from the same family: \$2.17
- For children with special needs, the base rate plus whichever is greater: 62 cents per hour or the provider's reasonable documented additional cost for caring for that child.