

Are You Ready to Start a Child Care Center?

This resource is meant to help you think about the reasons why you want to open a child care center and if it is the right choice for you. There are both personal and professional considerations for you to think about as you start your journey.

Personal Considerations

	Yes	No	Not Sure
Do you have a passion for helping children and their parents?			
Do you enjoy being with young children and have the patience to care for them for many hours each day?			
Are you able to manage conflict successfully if it arises with staff and/or families?			
Are you able to get along with multiple types of families and children, even if their parenting style or culture are different than yours?			
Do you have the physical and emotional strength to run a child care business?			
If you have children or other people in your life who need you during child care hours of operation, have you identified someone to care for them if they become sick or need something?			
Do you have a positive attitude, even when challenges arise?			
Does your family support your decision?			



Professional Considerations

	Yes	No	Not Sure
Are you a self-starter?			
Do you have the required education needed in your state or local area to operate a child care center?			
Do you have the knowledge and previous experience to run a child care center?			
Do you know where to go to for training or help in running your child care center?			
Are you comfortable working with licensing requirements and government regulations?			
Do you have the time to learn the necessary skills or are you willing to hire staff with different skill sets that you need to have a successful child care center?			
Are you able to plan and organize well? Think about managing staff, planning for children and ensuring families receive timely communication from you.			
Do you have experience in hiring, training and supervising employees?			
Are you comfortable with the potential legal, professional and personal risks associated with starting a new business?			
Have you undertaken similar responsibilities that have demonstrated you have the motivation and determination needed to make your business successful?			
Do you have access to funds you may need to start your business?			
Are you aware of the required amount of business and professional liability insurance you need for your child care program?			



If you checked “Yes” to all of these items, you are ready to continue exploring the next steps in starting your child care business!



If you checked “No” or “Not Sure” to some of the items, reach out to your local Child Care Resource and Referral agency for help.