



Caring for Kids

A public service coordinated by Dr. Michael Sharp, community pediatrics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Susan Russell, Orange County Department of Social Services

Having made the decision to place your child in a family day care home, how do you find the right home—the home that will meet your needs and will offer your child a safe, secure and enriching environment?

You must first know who is offering family day care in your community. Parents usually obtain their information about home providers from friends, newspaper ads, or pediatricians. Some communities have child care information and referral services which can provide parents with a great deal of information about all available child care services in an area. They can help parents pinpoint the

day care centers or homes which meet the parents' requirements for an acceptable child care arrangement and may be able to tell parents where vacancies exist. Parents can then call and visit the places that seem like good prospects.

Information and referral brochures provide the same type of objective information, but cannot tell parents where there are openings. In many communities, there may be so few openings for child care that careful selection among alternatives becomes impossible.

If some choice does exist, you should make an effort to locate at least two or three day

care homes which can meet your specific child care needs. Important screening questions concern fees, payment schedule, probable duration of continued service, hours, location, and the number and ages of other children in the home. If the caregiver keeps fewer than six children for more than four hours a day, is she registered with the state, or North Carolina, as is required by law? If she keeps six or more children on a full time basis, she must be licensed and meet certain standards of child care set by the state.

If the answers to those questions are satisfactory, make appointments to visit

the homes under consideration during the time when other children are present. Take your child with you. Remember, some business matters have been discussed previously and more can be discussed later. The purpose of this visit is to determine if this home and caregiver are appropriate for your child. Do you feel welcome and comfortable in this home? Does your child?

This is a good time to observe for and ask questions about health and safety. The North Carolina registration law sets no standards for homes for fewer than six children. You will want to be sure that there is adequate space both inside and outside for your child's use: clean, in good repair, well-lit, adequately heated, well-ventilated and free from hazards to children (including walls with lead-paint?).

Are small items which could be easily swallowed out of children's and infants reach? If there are stairs, are they guarded and do they have a handrail? Are the

windows screened or locked? In the bathroom, are there safe footstools for the children to use to reach faucets and the toilet? Are medicines, household cleaners, and other poisons locked out of reach of children? Are paper towels provided or does each child have his own clean wash cloth and towel? Who provides diapers, and how are they disposed of? Where will your child rest? Does each child have his own crib, cot or mat with clean linens? Does the caregiver practice and teach good health habits such as washing hands and brushing teeth?

Is there a working fire extinguisher in the house? Has the provider thought about evacuation routes in the event of fire in various parts of the home? Are there emergency numbers posted near the telephone? What would the provider do in case of an emergency involving one of the children or herself? Is there an informed neighbor who could provide help? Is transportation available?

Spend some time in the

outside play area. Are children allowed to play outside while the caregiver is inside? Is this area fenced or well-defined by natural boundaries? Is it away from traffic or other dangers? Is there adequate outside play equipment and toys? Are these safe and in good repair? Are there family pets or neighborhood pets with which your child will have contact? Are they friendly and healthy?

Which meals or snacks will be provided? If your child is an infant, who will provide formula or special foods? If you are breastfeeding your child, would the caregiver welcome you during the day to nurse your baby? If the caregiver will be responsible for food, what does she typically serve? Will these menus meet your child's nutritional needs? Where do children eat? Will your child have a table and chair with which he feels comfortable and safe?

You will want to consider the daily activities in the home. Ideally these will be somewhat informal—so that

your child can benefit from the experience of family living—yet will also reflect some understanding of children's needs for age-appropriate toys, language stimulation, creative play with craft materials and make-believe props, music, books, and a comfortable quiet place away from the noisy play area.

Does the caregiver read to the child each day? Do they take walks around the neighborhood or other outings? Is there a predictable routine each day, so that your child can know what to expect? How do children take part in household activities? Are they given the opportunity to help in food preparation, cleaning, gardening, or in hobbies of the caregiver? Are all children including infants, allowed playtime outside each day? What happens on rainy

days? How do infants in the home spend each day? Are they allowed out of the crib, playpen, or infant seat to explore different areas? Are they provided with a variety of safe toys and is their position and location changed often during the day? Does the caregiver talk frequently to the infants during the day? Does the caregiver talk frequently to the infants and spend enough time each day holding and playfully interacting with them?

Health, safety, and interesting age-appropriate activities are extremely important. However, if these areas appear adequate in the homes you observe, the deciding factor in your choice then becomes your assessment of the caregiver.

News From God's Holy Assembly Church

The Lord has really blessed God's Holy Assembly Church at Shannon. We just finished a three-day revival in which God showered us with his spirit and blessings.

Since our last baptizing on August 22, 1982, ten souls have come to Christ and will be baptized on Sunday, Sept. 19, 1982 at Sister Retha and Jeff Locklear's pool.

On October 3, 1982 there will be an old fashioned service with the congregation

by Sue Chavis

dressed in the old fashioned Homecoming will be held on Oct. 10, 1982. The Apostles Quartet from Fayetteville, NC will be guest singers. Other singers are invited.

We welcome everyone to come be with us in our services. Our pastor is Rev. James Maynor. Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. We are sure you will receive a great blessing.

Morton Gives Voters A Choice



Norm Morton

Robeson County voters will have a choice other than the "straight ticket" this year on their ballots for the County Board of Commissioners.

That point was made today by Norm Morton, a Republican candidate for the post who will be elected on a county-wide ballot.

"Though I live in Lumberton and would be a Lumberton District representative on the board, because I will be a county-wide candidate in November I feel that I can truly say I would be representative of the entire county," Morton said.

The 44-year-old Lumberton businessman also said that, with his accounting experience, he will bring "a fiscal responsibility to the county that is needed."

"I feel that the people have a right to know how their tax dollars are spent, and I want to see to it that they get a full accounting of those funds," he said.

No stranger to public service, Morton has served as a member of the U.S. Army's Intelligence division, where he saw duty at Fort Bragg and other military installations.

Locally, Morton is a charter member of Kiwanis of Robeson, and has served on the Lumberton Redevelopment Commission and Lumberton Ecology Commission. He is vice-president-elect of the Kiwanis.

His party duties have included chairmanship of the Robeson G.O.P. for two terms, treasurer for a term.

service on the Congressional District Committee, a precinct chairmanship and membership on the State Republican Executive Committee.

He has resided in Robeson County for 11 years, is vice-president of Lumberton Oil Company and president of Business Assistance Associates. He has also been a writer and columnist for the Robesonian newspaper.

A member of Chestnut Street United Methodist Church, where he has served on the board of trustees and administrative board, Morton has been listed in "Who's Who in the Southeastern U.S."

He is married to the former Margeurite Pait, and the Mortons have three children, Lynn, Allyn and Jonathan.

Observes Fourth Birthday



Quentin Hollis Locklear celebrated his 4th birthday September 9, at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Locklear of Vernon Hills, Ill. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Locklear of Red Springs.

He received many nice gifts from his friends and a bicycle from his parents.

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