

Child Care Provider Certification

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the difference between being a babysitter and a certified child care provider?

A. A babysitter watches child(ren) at a caretakers' home without state child care requirements and expectations. The certified provider is a small business owner, required to follow the rules and regulations and maintain a county certificate. Certified providers are required to keep a schedule, develop lesson plans with developmental activities in all areas of a child ages and stages of development. Certified providers also are required to create healthy menus and prepare food for children in care. Certified child care providers also help parents and support the family unit. Child care providers are also required to maintain accurate records and complete regular paper work. This is necessary in order to collect pay for care provided and preparing and keeping records of receipts for tax purposes.

Q. How long does it take to become a provider?

A. The process starts once the application is received by Licking County JFS. The certification process takes a minimum of 120 business days.

Q. What are my out of pocket cost?

A. The applicant is required to get a medical statement completed by a physician, and to have both a FBI and BCII background checks completed. The cost for those items are the responsibility of the applicant.

Q. Can I provide care in the home where the children live?

A. No. Care must be completed in the home where the certified provider lives. The provider's home is inspected and certified to help ensure a safe care environment for the children.

Q. If I get a Limited Certificate for a family with only 2 children, can I care for other children during that time if I don't go over the 6 child limit?

A. No, Limited Certificates can only be used for one family with up to six children, who have been previously approved for child care assistance.

Q. If I have a Limited Certificate and I want to become a Certified Professional Provider, am I able to continue to provide care as a Limited provider while my application is being processed?

A. Yes you can continue to provide services as a Limited Provider.

Q. If I am certified as a Limited Provider and the family I am providing care loses their child care assistance can I provide care for a different family?

A. No. A Limited Certificate is based on one specific family. If that family loses eligibility, changes providers, or no longer requires child care, your Limited Certificate automatically expires. In the case where the family has lost eligibility, if the family reapplies and are determined eligible, the Limited Provider will need to reapply and also be recertified to provide care for that family. The Limited Provider may also be recertified to care for a different eligible family.

Q. Once I am certified, how long until the agency sends children for me to watch.

A. Families choose their provider. The agency does not assign children to a provider, nor does the agency guarantee the provider will have children to watch. The provider may request to be included on the Certified Provider List given to families to help them find a provider after they have been approved for childcare assistance.