

Now, you can trust your children to responsible, safe, supportive care that thousands of other AF families have discovered. Already available at more than 80 installations and civilian communities worldwide, FCC offers in-home care for your children ages 2 weeks to 12 years in both on-base housing and civilian communities.



The growing demand for child care and the need for greater flexibility in supporting the Air Force mission necessitated for the expansion of FCC Program. The initiatives of the Expanded FCC Program enables military and civilian parents to perform their duty without undue concern about the well being of their children while reducing significant additional child care costs.

Currently caring for more than 20,000 children, FCC is offered on an hourly, part-day or full-day basis. It can help you in the event that your child is ill or has other special needs. It's available for deployments, exercises and extended duty hours. In short, it's everything you need to make sure your children have everything they need. Far from a simple baby-sitting service, FCC providers must meet stringent requirements. They are required to be at least 18 years of age, able to speak, read and write English, and in good mental and physical health. They and their family members must pass a comprehensive background check and complete an orientation program prior to licensing.

Additionally, providers must complete 15 AF Training Modules equating to approximately 60 hours of training. Finally, to ensure your peace of mind, they are required to complete additional training each year, similar to the training required of the Child Development Center (CDC) employees. When you leave your child in an FCC home, you can be sure that it is fully equipped for your child's physical safety. That's because the FCC program lends providers important child safety items such as safety gates, scald guards, first-aid kits, doorknob covers, fire extinguishers, electrical outlet covers, etc. Further, unannounced home inspections are conducted monthly to ensure that every provider is consistently maintaining all safety standards.

In addition to child safety items, the FCC program lends providers a wide range of developmentally appropriate educational materials and supplies for infants through school-aged children. Ranging from small-muscle development toys such as puzzles and LEGOs to music materials, language skill supplies, arts and crafts materials and outdoor play equipment, your child will enjoy (and be challenged by) a wide selection of books, games, and toys. FCC is now available in civilian communities in off-base affiliated-provider homes at most locations. Offering the same standards in care, these homes are affiliated with the AF and are required to meet all AF standards as well as standards of the state, county, or country that has child-care licensing jurisdiction.

BECOMING A FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER

Help support the Air Force mission by caring for the children of our military and DOD civilian personnel while establishing a professional career for yourself. At minimal start-up cost to you, you can operate your own home-based business, set your own hours, be with your children, and care for other children at home. The FCC staff will train and help you provide responsible, safe, in-home care for children ages 2 weeks to 12 years in your government home or affiliated off-base home. As an added benefit, you'll also receive 60 hours of AF Standardized training, annual refresher training and be eligible for low cost insurance options. The FCC Program will assist you in seeking the Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) and accreditation through the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC).

And, your credentials follow you wherever you go, making your home-based business portable. When you PCS or when your spouse leaves the military, you can move your business along with your family. You can make a difference by providing quality and affordable child care in a home setting. For more information contact the Vandenberg Air Force Base Family Child Care office at 805-606-4639.

According to AFI 34-276:

1.3. Scope. Any individuals caring for other families' children a total of more than 10 hours a week on a regular basis must be licensed to provide care in on-base quarters.

1.3.1. This does not include:

1.3.1.1. Individuals who occasionally provide care for a friend or neighbor.

1.3.1.2. Individuals providing baby-sitting on an occasional basis for other families.

1.3.1.3. Teenagers doing evening or weekend baby-sitting for families.

1.3.1.4. Child care provided in the parents' own home.

1.3.1.5. Parent cooperatives where one of the parents provides supervision for other parents' children on an exchange basis and no fees are involved.

1.3.1.6. Temporary full-time care of a child during a parent's absence for temporary duty or deployment by the person listed on the AF Form 357, Family Care Plan.

1.3.2. Compute the requirement to be licensed by multiplying the number of hours the provider offers care on a regular basis by the number of children in care. For example, if an individual provides care one afternoon a week for 4 children for 3 hours they must be licensed.

1.4.3. The support group commander may revoke the housing privileges of individuals who provide child care but refuse to become licensed or who continue to provide care after their license has been suspended or revoked.