



Colleen's Child Care

License # 503904282

Dear Prospective Child Care Parent -

I am very glad to have had the chance to meet you and your child. I hope that I answered all the questions you may have and hopefully put some of your fears to rest that go along with leaving a child with someone who you hardly know or having to put a child in a child care setting. If you choose to place your child with me I can guarantee a warm and loving home for your child and a chance to play with others his or her own age in a safe learning environment.

I would like to take the chance in this letter to let you know some of my accomplishments, which I feel make me a qualified family child care provider. First and foremost, I have 3 wonderful children of my own which I take great pride in. Secondly, I spent 4 years working in an Infant / Toddler Daycare Center working with children ages 6 weeks to 3 years. I spent most of my time with 18 to 24 month olds and I loved every minute of it. I also served as an Assistant Director for a period of 6 months until I felt I needed more time for my own son. At that time, I returned to being a full time teacher in the room I loved so much. During the 4 years I spent at Primary Plus, I attended classes in the evenings at West Valley Junior College in Saratoga, CA. My main focus was on Early Childhood Development and ended up completing approximately 30 units toward my degree. I chose to leave Primary Plus after my daughter, Emma, was born. This was a very tough choice to make but some reason it seemed right. Six months later I knew I had made the right choice, it was then when my daughter, Emma was diagnosed with Down Syndrome. For the next 2 years I worked evenings at Kragens part time so I could be home for my children. As time went on and we moved here to the central valley, I wanted more family time. I left Kragens to care for a child from one family while I pursued my family childcare license. I became licensed in August 1999. Since that time I have actively continued my education by attending classes offered through Resource and Referral as well as Modesto Junior College. In January 2009, I graduated from Modesto Junior College with my AS Degree in Family and Consumer Science with the main focus being child development. Even though I have my degree, I still attend classes and workshops to gain professional growth hours to keep my Site Supervisor Permit from the State of California's Teacher Credentialing Office in good standing.

Another accomplishment that I am very proud of is that I have written and have been awarded four mini grants since becoming a licensed provider. The first grant I was awarded was for \$894 that was spent on art materials, nap mats and linens as well as outside material. In September 2001, I was awarded a \$5000 mini grant from the Stanislaus County Family and Children's Commission partnered with the local chapter of the United Way. This particular grant allowed me to drastically change my playroom to the way you see it today. Everything purchased

was ordered from Lakeshore Learning Company. I also have Lakeshore to thank as well because they gave me a rebate of sorts worth \$372 to spend in their stores, which I did, and purchased art materials, many CD's of children's music and a few things to "finish" my playroom. Then in October 2002, I was awarded approximately \$3500 to purchased nutrition learning materials and a new diaper changing table. These funds also came from Stanislaus County Family and Children's Commission and the United Way. Lastly, in October of 2003, my child care was accredited though the National Association for Family Child Care which again was funded by a grant through the California Association for Young Children. The NAFCC Accreditation program is something that very few family child care providers take the time to accomplish – largely due to the expense of the application fees involved. My accredited status expired in late October 2006 but my goal is to apply and go through the process again someday.

Today, I take pride in running my own family child care business with two wonderful employees and caring for my children who are quickly growing up. I also serve on the board of the Stanislaus County Family Child Care Association as Vice President and have since 2005. I am also working towards becoming a contracted provider through Modesto City Schools program. My goals for the future include obtaining my BA in child Development at Stanislaus State, once again becoming an accredited provider of NAFCC, and continuing to improve my business and family child care home.

I hope that this letter alleviates any fears you may still have about choosing someone to care for your child while you are away at work or even school. I will continue to attend classes to better myself as a family childcare provider and as a parent. I hope you will allow me the opportunity to care for your child. Please feel free to call me to ask any questions you may still have. My handbook and other information about me and my daycare is available online at www.colleenschildcare.com.

Thank You for Your Time

Colleen Stephansen