**How To Wear the “Mommy (or Daddy) Hat” & The “Provider Hat” At The Same Time!**

“Mommy, Mommy he’s playing with MY toys!” if you’ve heard a child say something like this before and it was “Your Child this might be the workshop for you. Maintaining the balance between being Mommy to your children and doing your job of nurturing other people’s children can sometimes be quite a task . In this workshop we will talk about boundaries, work environment, need structures, and other related issues.

**What else needs to be considered when starting a family child care business at home?**

The decision to start a family child care business must take into account your own family's needs first. Sharing household space with other children and their families poses challenges that require planning, organization, and flexibility. Some common concerns of a family child care provider's spouse and children include:

* sharing Mom;
* sharing personal belongings and space with others;
* additional clutter at home;
* the comings and goings of children and their families each day; and
* phone calls after hours.

Family child care providers can minimize the disruption of family space and schedules by:

* establishing clear guidelines with child care families about days and hours of the business operation;
* being clear that certain rooms or toys are "off limits";
* building in special times with their own children—in your lap during story reading, for example, or a half hour alone with Mom once the child care children have left for the day.

Family child care providers can also create a positive vision of the decision to offer family child care by reminding their families of the benefits of having a family child care business. The advantages are many:

* having more toys and equipment than your own children would otherwise have at home;
* generating additional income to help with family expenses;
* allowing Mom to work at home;
* providing additional playmates to play with, learn from, and care about; and
* offering a valuable service for other working families in the community.

The decision to start a family child care business must also take into account your neighbors' needs. The additional street traffic from families each day is a legitimate concern of a family child care provider's neighbors. Discussions with neighbors about what precautions will be taken to ensure they will not be inconvenienced by a family child care business can help to avoid misunderstandings. When neighbors recognize the family child care home as a legitimate business operation, they may be less inclined to view the provider as the "block babysitter" who can watch other children playing on the block along with her own child care children.