

What Do Satisfied Parent & Child Care Provider Relationships Look Like?

by Leyla Norman, studioD

A satisfied relationship means parents, children and care providers are happy.

You might have a nanny, an au pair, a child care center, family day care, babysitter, friend or grandma taking care of your children. Whoever gives you time to work or enjoy some personal quiet time is one of the most important people or entities in your family's life. A good relationship is vital. Focus on building and maintaining such a relationship regularly, and you can count on the relationship likely continuing for years.

Communication

Communication is one of the most important characteristics of a successful relationship between parents and child care providers. You, as a parent, want to know how your child is progressing, and the provider wants to know when you will be home late and what your child care expectations are. Make a regular time to meet. This might be a weekly conference with your nanny or a daily run-down at the daycare of your child's activities.

Respect for the Parent

Child care providers are in the business of making parents happy. For example, if a parent wants a child not to have dessert until after dinner, nannies and babysitters should follow through. In-home child care providers may also have a number of household-related tasks to complete, and they must accomplish them as the parent wants. House rules are also important for in-home child care providers to follow. Day care centers show respect for parents by informing them that her child needs diapers for the next week instead of the night before or by not feeding the child the center's food when the parent provides a lunch and snack.

Respect for the Care Provider

Parents who regularly show up late will eventually incur the resentment of their nannies and babysitters. Parents should also follow through on what consequences they set. For example, if the parent mentioned above gave in and gave the child dessert after the nanny said no dessert until after dinner, it would undermine the nanny's authority.

Going Out of the Way

Going out of the way to be kind to each other is another important aspect of a good relationship between care providers and parents. A parent who asks to take home some laminating to cut or who comes in at the end of the day once a week to help clean a day care center will be a hero among staff members. Care providers who show extra love and support to a child who has a difficult time saying good-bye to her parent in the morning wins the parent's support.

Trust

Parents and childcare providers who have a good relationship also trust one another. In-home caregivers are trusted to do their jobs in the sanctity of someone's private residence. Child care centers are trusted to provide safe educational and play opportunities. Lies and deceit have no place in an open communication relationship. Up-front and polite discussion of what is really going on in the care of a child helps to develop trust that keeps child care provider and parent relationships strong.

References

- FamilyEducation.com: Maintaining a Good Relationship with Child Care Providers
- Forbes: Confessions of the Best Nanny in the World

Resources

- Iowa State University: Child Care Checklist for Parents

About the Author

Leyla Norman has been a writer since 2008 and is a certified English as a second language teacher. She also has a master's degree in development studies and a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology.