

A Guide for Home Day Care Providers In the Town of Cary

PURPOSE

The purpose of this fact sheet is to educate residents on the proper way to start a home day care in accordance with the Town's Land Development Ordinance.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is the difference between me babysitting and operating a home day care?

According to General Statute 110-Article 7, home day cares are not required to be licensed by the State if the care for children involves 2 or less children not related to the care provider.

What constitutes a home day care?

A Home Day Care provides care, protection, and supervision for 3 or more children or adults away from their primary residence. The care lasts for less than twenty-four (24) hours per day. Specific use types include a Small Home Day Care and a Large Home Day Care.

What is the difference between a small and a large home day care?

A small home day care is defined as a day care facility established in a residential dwelling for the care and keeping of up to six (6) children not related to the care provider by birth, marriage or adoption, or up to three (3) adults. A large home day care is defined as a day care facility established in a residential dwelling for the care and keeping of seven (7) to twelve (12) children not related to the care provider by birth, marriage or adoption, or between four (4) and six (6) adults.

Where are home day cares permitted?

Small Home Day Cares are permitted in all residential zoning districts with an approved Accessory Use Permit. Large Home Day Cares are permitted in all residential zoning districts with an approved Special Use Permit provided the lot is a minimum of 15,000 square feet in size.

Do I have to own the home where the home occupation occurs?

No. A home day care can be operated by an owner or renter, however, the principal person or persons providing the day care service must reside in the dwelling.



Who do I call if I have questions about starting a home day care in Cary?

You may contact the Planning Department at (919) 469-4082 with any questions about starting a home day care business.

How do I get started?

1. Contact the Division of Child Development to request a Family Child Care Home Application Packet. You may reach the Division at 800.859.0829 (in-state calls only) or 919.662.4527.
2. Schedule a 'pre-application' meeting with the Planning Department (large home day care only).
3. Apply for a Special Use Permit (large home day care only) through the Planning Department. The Special Use Permit is issued by the Town Council after a public hearing has been held.
4. Apply for an Accessory use permit (permit to do business out of your home)
5. After the Special Use (large home day care) and/or Accessory Use (small home day care) Permit has been approved, apply for a Privilege License through the Town of Cary Finance Department.
6. Contact the Inspections and Permits Department (919.469.4043) to schedule a building permit (if needed).

Can I have signs for my home day care?



Home day cares can advertise using automotive signs, however when parked at the home, any automotive signs need to be removed or parked within an enclosed garage. No advertising devices or other signage is allowed on the property, which is visible from outside the home, unless the home occupation is located in the Town Center area of Cary.

Are there any special standards for home day cares?

Small home day cares require a minimum of three (3) off-street parking spaces plus one (1) additional space if there is an employee who does not reside in the home. Large home day cares require a minimum of four (4) off-street parking spaces plus one (1) additional space if there is an employee who does not reside in the home. If required, an outdoor play area must be provided in accordance with your Division of Child Development permit from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS).

Are there any other resources?

There are many resources out there to help you find or get started in provided a home day care. Below are a few resources:

- Child Care Services Association (CCSA) <http://www.childcareservices.org/>.
- NC Division of Child Development <http://ncchildcare.dhhs.state.nc.us/general/home.asp>