

YOUR ROLE IN THE CHILD CARE PROCESS

Remember, not every center can meet every need, but a good center will work with you to meet your child's requirements.

Studies show that the greater part of human development happens before the age of five. From the standpoint of the child -- whether a child will be an asset or a liability in future society -- depends largely on his or her success in school. That often depends upon whether they attend two or more years in a **high quality** preschool setting.

Parents are the most important teachers and caregivers of children. Child care should be an extension of this care. Child care **is not baby sitting**. **Child care is a skilled profession** and should be regarded as such. Parents can become partners with their child care givers in providing a continuum of care and education.

- Provide your caregiver with all pertinent information for understanding your child's special needs.
- Read all handouts, newsletters and other printed materials that your child brings home.
- Pay your fees on time.
- Participate in conferences and attend seminars and activities arranged by the center.
- Establish a regular time to talk with your provider.
- Always stay involved.
- Offer to help out on special events.
- Get involved in center committees and activities.
- A thank you note or just "thanks" to the provider can create happy feelings.
- Whatever you choose to do to stay involved with your provider, you will find the time that you take is well worth the effort.

