

# Child care chatter — because child care matters

By Meredith Williams

Once you have chosen your child care provider, whether it be a child care center, family child care home, family member or nanny, you will want to learn the best ways to communicate with them. Communication is a key to an effective relationship between you and your child care provider. The more you both communicate, the better you will be at working together as a team to solve issues that arise. There will be occasional issues. You may be unhappy with words or behaviors that your child has picked up, concerned that your child isn't learning the skills or knowledge you expected, or you may just want to know more about what your child does during the day. Here are some tips to help.

Consider the time when you want to talk to your provider. If you are at a child care center or family child care home, trying to have a long conversation at drop off/pick up times might not be best. Ask your provider when the



most convenient time to talk to them would be or see if you can set up a time to have a sit-down conference.

Let your provider know about things that happen at home

with your child. You might not realize how much what happens at home can affect your child's behavior during the day. For instance, tell your provider if your child didn't sleep well the night before or didn't eat much for breakfast.

Help your provider see things from your point of view and how things affect your family at home. At the same time, try to see how things you want might affect the provider and come to a compromise that you both can work with.

Consider giving your provider your phone number and email address for using text messages and email. It is an easy and convenient way to communicate simple matters. Remember it's always best to discuss important issues in person.

If your child is in a child care center, try to always address your concerns with your child's main teacher. If the teacher is not there when you drop off/pick up, leave them a note, send an email, or call later in the day. Don't assume messages left with a temporary teacher will get passed on. Also, with major concerns or issues consider speaking with the director as well as your child's teacher.

If your child tells you something concerning that happened during the day, don't jump to conclusions. Young children are not always the best source of accurate information. Make sure you speak with your child care provider directly to hear their perspective.

Use your child care provider as a parenting

resource. People who have worked with children for years have a lot of experience with child rearing issues and can give you great advice on ways to solve problems that occur at home.

Take advantage of the different ways your provider tries to communicate with you. Read all notes sent home, look at the parent bulletin board, and read all emails. If your child has a daily folder, be sure to check it every day. Stay up to date on what is happening in the classroom.

To learn more about quality child care or to find out about your child care options in Chatham County, call Child Care Search at 1.855.231.8717. Child Care Search is a child care referral service offered by Child Care Networks in Pittsboro. You can also find information online at [childcarenetworks.org](http://childcarenetworks.org).

—Meredith Williams, Child Care Networks



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**APRIL EVENTS**

**APRIL 10:** Grilled Pizza at unWINEd.

**APRIL 18:** Food Truck Rodeo across from the Roadhouse. Bella Donna will be selling fresh baked pizza.

**APRIL 25:** Canvas and Cork Painting Party. \$48 12:30-3:30 p.m. Painting, Wine, and Pizza! What could be better!

**APRIL 25:** Baked Ziti at unWINEd.

**APRIL 27:** 10% Of All Day Sales goes to Women of Fearington a non profit fundraiser group which gave out \$14,000 last year to local schools and other non-profits.

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