



Learning to Grow

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I ♥ WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Family, Friend, and Neighbor Caregivers: Clarifying Expectations and Responsibilities

It's very common in Hawai'i for young children to be placed in the care of grandparents, other relatives, and friends while their parents are at work. Although this is a wonderful gift to families, sometimes conflicts arise when parents and caregivers have different expectations of each other. It's important to take time to talk and clarify each person's responsibilities. Your 'ohana will be stronger when everyone feels respected and appreciated. The following topics may provide a starting place for your discussions.

Category	Expectations and Responsibilities Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care Providers
Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ How long are you willing to care (weeks, months, or years) for the child? ♥ How many children are you willing to care for? ♥ What are your childcare hours? ♥ Do you want a trial period before deciding to provide long term child care? If yes, how long is the trial period? ♥ Do the parents have a back-up plan for when you need time off from child care?
Compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ Will you be paid? If so, how much will you be paid? ♥ When will payments be made (e.g., weekly, monthly)? ♥ If no money payment, will parents be providing any other help in exchange?
Meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ Will you be feeding the child any meals or snacks? ♥ Who will provide the food? ♥ Do you and parents agree about the kinds of foods you will serve and the times for meals and snacks?
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ Who will care for the child if he or she is sick? ♥ Are you willing and able to administer medications to a sick child according to the doctor's prescription? ♥ Do you and parents agree on the amount of sleep the child should get? ♥ Will you provide outdoor time for the child?
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ What kind of help (e.g., purchase or install safety latches) do you need to make your home child-safe? ♥ Will you get training for first aid and child CPR? Who will pay for it? ♥ What will you do if the child is accidentally injured? ♥ Do you have an emergency exit plan for fire, flood, or natural disasters?
Discipline and Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ Do you and parents agree about child discipline? ♥ Do you and parents agree about how much TV the child should watch? ♥ Do you and parents agree about the best time for weaning from bottles and pacifiers, introducing solid foods, or beginning toilet training?
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ Will you be taking the child on errands or excursions outside of your home? ♥ What transportation will you use? ♥ Are the parents comfortable with you driving? ♥ Will the parent provide a car safety seat for the child?
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ What activities will you do with the child each day? ♥ What other supplies (e.g., extra clothes, diapers, toys, books) will you need for the child?