

# Affordable, Reliable, Quality Child Care

By: Staff contributors

Parents seek affordable, reliable, and quality child care. As difficult as it may seem, ETS strives with success to help parents with youth development in a constantly changing world.

In an ideal setting children, youth and parents will be content. We as child and youth development professionals feel that a reliable atmosphere is created when the program focuses on the development of the whole child, socially, physically, intellectually, cognitively, and emotionally. “Everyone benefits when children become secure, responsible, mature adults”. Parents need to ensure that they, too, feel comfortable. We are staffed to ease the parents' minds.

Choosing the right child care setting involves observing how the caretaker responds and reacts with your child. This tells you if your caretaker is warm and responsive, therefore keeping an eye on your child and making sure those trusting and interactive relationships are intact. Children having a positive relationship and association with their caregiver can be extremely beneficial in their development. Another aspect is making sure your child care is stable and comfortable. Consistency and easy transitions are key, and having a steady routine can help children become well adjusted. In addition, always trust your gut. If you feel that the child care setting is not the right fit for you and your child, do not follow through with it. It will only cause you to worry and will inhibit your mind from being at ease. Our goal at ETS is to have both the parent(s) and the child be as comfortable as possible.

Now that you are satisfied with the child care setting you have chosen, you have done merely half of the work. There is the other half which is costs, what do they do for exposure to illness and other cluster sicknesses, and is there a waiting list. In this day and age with a pandemic, daycare facilities have to be precautionous. Children can be susceptible to diseases, which is why having policies, rules and regulations in place is beneficial. For example, child care settings must now limit the number of children they have in their care at once. In order to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19, they should not be running at full capacity. Other characteristics that should be considered are also the qualifications and recommendations of the staff. Other parents' opinions on a child care setting can be very helpful. If you find that other parents in your circle are really satisfied with one, it can be a good idea to look into it. Some qualifications you can look for are if the child care setting is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or if you choose at-home childcare, the National Association for Family Child Care.

It is every adult’s responsibility to develop responsible, secure adult leaders. “It takes an entire village to raise a child.” Please, tie the child’s shoe. Even better, take a few minutes to teach the child how to tie the shoe. Let’s be good role models to our children and teach them through

our example by not smoking, cursing, or drinking alcoholic beverages - at least not in their presence. Children are like sponges and take in everything around them. They are always observing and learning from those around them.

These children and youth going into child care are the future leaders of our society. As a part of their growth and development, they rely on us to lead by example.

Teach the future leaders to plan, analyze and prepare. If you need help, ask for help from your neighbor. Be your brother's keeper. If you rise, it's okay to help your brother rise. We all need help anyway! A child will not be at risk because you are doing your part. Adults, while the future leaders are playing, they need you to plan, analyze and think for the future of this generation and the next. Children are destined to be productive, responsible, and secure adults because they are modeling you. "Children are a reward, a gift from God."

Who cares for the future leaders? We care! ETS needs you to work in conjunction with us to create an ideal child care setting for all children. Continue to help us by supporting our efforts financially. Please send a generous contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100, or \$200, but a gift of any amount is helpful. Please mail your tax-deductible contributions to Eager To Serve, Inc, Inc. PO Box 215 Freeport NY 11520. Please call Eager To Serve, Inc. at (516) 223- 7886 for additional child care information.