



## It's OK to be Neighborly:

### An Explanation of the Family Child Care 10 Hour Limit

### Confused?

Have you been asked to watch a friend's child for a few hours each week, but been afraid that you might have to become a Family Child Care Provider?

Have neighbors asked if you would take care of their children while they go on vacation for a week, but you weren't sure you were allowed?

There seems to be a lot of confusion... family members thinking they must be certified, when all they really want to do is help a friend.

### Good News!

It is not - and never has been - the intent of Child Development Services to eliminate such "good neighbor" favors.

***When can I watch my friend's children?  
When can I leave my children with a friend?***

It has always been an Army tradition to help each other. Short term child care is no exception. Neighbors can watch children while parents, for example:

- Attend a class
- Go shopping
- Have a doctor's appointment
- Participate in recreational activities
- Take weekend trips or vacations
- Go on occasional short field exercises

### The Ten Hour Limit

The Army has a responsibility to balance the ability of families to rely on one another to meet their short term child care needs with protecting the safety and well-being of children.

There is a difference between watching children a few hours each week and providing child care services as a profession.

National studies show that specialized training and outside monitoring are two key indicators of providing quality care to children in regularly scheduled child care settings.

Therefore, a 10 hour child care limit has been established to protect children from being in unregulated child care settings on an on-going basis.

### Simply Stated:

The 10 hour limit means any family member living in government quarters providing child care for more than 10 child care hours per week on a regular basis must be certified as a Family Child Care Provider.

A "child care hour" is defined as one child for ten hours per week, two children for five hours per week, etc. Children from the same family count as one child.

If you watch a friend's child all day once, you provide child care for more than ten hours, *but you do not do it on a regular basis*. You do not need to be an FCC provider. If you watch one child one hour per day, you provide care on a regular basis, *but you do not exceed the 10-hour limit per week*. You do not need to be an FCC provider.

So go ahead - it's OK to watch your neighbor's children - it's OK to be neighborly.