

CFR Connection

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Child & Family Resources, Inc.

SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN ONTARIO, SENECA AND YATES COUNTIES

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Three Generations in Day Care



For this quarter's newsletter, we would like to take the opportunity to highlight three special child care providers. What makes these three providers so special, is that they are three generations from the same family who are providing child care! Here are their interesting stories and how they got started in the child care profession.

We will start with **Kaitlyn Birchard**. When asked why she decided to go into child care, she stated "I grew up in this watching my grandma and mom do it. I have always had a heart for kids and now being a mom myself, I felt it was a good way to juggle mom life and career life." She also spoke

about being an only child, but never feeling like one because it felt like she had lots of siblings around all of the time.

We asked all three providers some of the same questions. One question was if they go to each other for advice and ideas. Kaitlyn's reply was, "I call my mom and grandma all the time. My mom is the daycare guru." She also goes to her with paperwork questions. With her grandma, she talks a lot about ideas and ways to keep it fresh since grandma has been doing this work for 28 years!

When asked about interesting experiences, Kaitlyn told us about one close to her heart when a mom called her on Mother's Day to thank her for being her kids "other momma." Kaitlyn's advice to other potential providers is that it is not for the faint of heart. It is a much harder job than many people would think, so if you are not doing it for good true reasons, it won't work.

When asked if there was something she wanted to share, Kaitlyn replied, "I'm truly lucky to have grown up the way I did. I can only hope I can make the impact I know so many can say my mom and grandma have!" My grandma is invited to her daycare kid's graduations, and even weddings! It is so cool that she is that special to people!"

Next we move on to **Tina Jaeger's** story. Early on she worked at daycare centers through high school and college. She went on to do an office job after college, but when their doors closed, she had to collect unemployment. It was during that time that her mom, who was a registered daycare provider approached Tina about helping with her daycare. A parent who was about to have a baby would have put her over her capacity limit. After speaking with her unemployment representative (who told her they would pay for her to get a CDA), she started her new career. It also allowed her to be around for her own daughter. She worked as an assistant with her mom from 2000 to 2007 and then became a registered provider in her own business in 2007.

When we asked Tina what it was like being raised in a day care home, she said, "I didn't mind most of the time. I liked the babies the most." Tina also indicated that she and her mom share ideas and advice. Tina has had the same group of children in her care for 9 1/2 years! "They are like mine. I have been around for all of the firsts and seeing them off on the bus. You get so attached and while I was only able to have one of my own, it feels I have many more."

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