



A Peace of Mind ~ Family Child Care



Kensington, CA ~ 510-524-0712

APeaceOfMindFamilyChildCare@yahoo.com

How about "A Peace of Mind"?

I know that finding and choosing quality child care can be quite overwhelming, leaving you with feelings of guilt, frustration, uncertainty and stress.

I have been searching for "A Peace of Mind" with child care for my children for the past three years. I have now decided to provide that to myself and other parents searching for the same satisfaction. My goals each day for every child is to make sure that they are **having a blast, feeling content, happy, safe, rested, have eaten their meals and are looking forward to coming back again.** My goal for the parent is to provide you with "A Peace of Mind" when it comes to your child care.

To my surprise, according to the Contra Costa Child Care Council, there are no family child care providers in the city of Kensington and there are only 4 child care centers. **A Peace of Mind ~ Family Child Care** is the only family child care provider in the city of Kensington. So I thought there may be other parents in the area also looking for family child care for their child locally.

My Philosophy



My philosophy is pretty basic; I simply want to provide an environment that fosters healthy development of our children through the following four fundamental needs.



The most important to me is to form a close, caring relationships with me /my staff and our children. This is critical to healthy emotional development. I believe we should be able to respond to children in a variety of ways depending on the child's needs. To make that possible, infants and toddlers must be in small groups, in intimate settings, with enough caregivers to ensure that the children receive appropriate individual attention when they need it. I believe it is also crucial that particular caregivers consistently care for the same children. That consistency gives young children a secure base from which to explore.



Secondly, I value high standards for health and safety. Based on my personal experience at day care centers; I know how important it is to avoid the spread of infection with policies as simple as frequent hand washing for both children and adults and careful cleansing of surfaces and toys. I also hold a high standard of safety to decrease the risk of injuries.



Thirdly, I firmly believe that strong connections with the Childs family support a child's need for consistency between home life and child care. These ties also help support a child's identification with the family's language and cultural values. I will try my best to learn enough about the culture and background of every child
I will care for.



Last but not least, it is important to have a knowledgeable, responsive caregiver who understands development and learning can interact with children in ways that stimulate curiosity, compassion, and creativity. Such traits form the foundation for future learning and development. All of our toys and activities are geared towards achieving this.

If you are interested in what you are reading please call me for more information 510-524-0712 ~Lea

Let me tell you a little bit about my family background.



My husband and I are both from fairly large families with strong Christian backgrounds. He is a Civil Engineer and I have a Legal background. We are both from Eritrea. He comes from a family of 10 siblings. I come from a family of 6 siblings. I am second to the oldest, so I have been involved with child care duties since let's say I was 9 years old. My maternal instincts kicked in at a very early age – I am a caregiver by nature. My husband has also changed a few diapers from early in his life because he is the youngest of 10 siblings. He has over 20 nephews and nieces. His parents were married for over 55 years. My parents have been married for over 34 years. We both love family and being around plenty of children; especially now that we have our own.

I entered the beautiful world of motherhood on July 12, 2003, when I had my son, Jahrai. I went back to work after 3 months. I was miserable being away from my son; not to mention how shocked I was to find out how hard it is to find good child care. So, when my son was about 9 months old, I decided to stay home with my son until he was about 18 months. That was great; we had an awesome time together!! We went to the library, the park, the zoo, Fairyland and Gymboree classes (Gymboree was attended every day!). We also spent some time doing baby Einstein videos and flash cards. We had a daily routine and schedule and we tried our best to stay on track, some days were better than others. ☺

Eventually, I went back to work and my son attended a home child care. Let's just say the child care provider was much more militant than what I was looking for, for my child, and her assistant was - The TV – ALL DAY. Thus I decided to give a child care center a shot. That was okay – besides all the day offs I had to take for colds, flu's, stomach flu's and so on. Then I had my daughter, Meley, on July 12, 2005 (*Yes they are born on the same day, two years apart and no it was not planned, just happened naturally.* ☺) and went back to work on a 3 day schedule. My children have since stayed home with a nanny 3 days a week, then I get to dedicate my day to them full time Thursday - Sunday.

As a family we go out on evening walks together every night. We spend a lot of time around Solano Avenue, Tilden Park, the rabbit store down the street and family. My personal hobbies are; entertaining, cooking and traveling.



Here is a little bit about my professional background.



I have worked in the legal field for over 10 years. I joined the legal staffing field in 2000. Before joining my most recent employer, I established a paralegal placement division in the East Bay branch office of an international staffing company. I was also the Division Director for the regular-hire placement of attorneys and all legal support staff. Prior to my experience in the staffing field, I was an intellectual property litigation paralegal with major international law firms in Silicon Valley. I attended California State University-Chico, where I majored in Political Science and obtained my paralegal certificate.

I am a Co-Founder of a community nonprofit organization. I drafted and completed the bylaws, 501C status and incorporation paperwork. I hope to go back to a very active life in nonprofit work again someday – perhaps with an organization advocating children's rights.

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