

They may look the same...



But, what a difference!



Licensed or Unlicensed Home Child Care?

For Your Peace of Mind.

When it comes to the safety and well being of your child, meeting the government regulatory standards is really important. A licensed agency must follow strict guidelines and procedures related to the environment, equipment, maximum number of children and even nutritional needs. These are regularly monitored through unscheduled home visits conducted by RECE's.

Wee Watch is a licensed home child care agency that meets AND exceeds these standards.



Some Comparison Highlights of Unlicensed vs. Licensed Home Child Care

	Unlicensed	Licensed
Definition	<p>A home child care Provider not affiliated with a licensed agency who charges a fee for providing child care.</p> <p>Fee is paid directly to caregiver.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A home child care Provider who cares for children in their own home under the regulation of a child care agency. This means the child care agency is licensed by the Ministry of Education and operates under the regulation of the Child Care and Early Years Act. The Provider is affiliated with an agency.
Screening process	<p>The parent would assume full responsibility for the monitoring of the home and ensuring compliance of their child's care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each Provider must complete a detailed screening before they are affiliated with the agency. This includes, but is not limited to: vulnerable persons criminal reference check, Children's Aid Society check, and personal references. Provincial regulation outlines standards for the health, safety, nutrition and developmental needs of children.
Supports/ Training	<p>Providers are responsible for their daily programming, equipment and safety.</p> <p>Providers are in control of finances including taking money directly from the parent.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPR and First Aid must be kept current. A licensed home child care agency provides trained staff to support the Provider and the families of the children in their care. They offer ongoing training in child development, programming, and nutrition. A licensed agency may also be involved in community initiatives such as Raising the Bar, an accreditation program to ensure best practice and quality care. Fee subsidy (financial assistance) may be available. Providers are paid directly by the agency.
Ratios / number of Children in Care	<p>The number of children in a provider's home is limited to 5 children under the age of 10, not including the Provider's own children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licensed homes can care for up to 5 children, with no more than 2 under 2 years of age, and 3 under 3 years of age. The Provider's own children under the age of 6 must be counted in those age ratios.
Compliance / Health and Safety	<p>The parent would assume full responsibility for the monitoring of the home and ensuring compliance of their child's care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agencies visit homes unannounced on a regular basis to ensure appropriate play, eating and sleep space. Providers are randomly inspected by the Ministry of Education. The homes must be smoke free and proper safety measures must be followed.