

Transcript

Family Child Care – Small Group Video

[Text appears: Small Groups – Family Child Care. Crystal Coleman serves as the host for this topic.]

Crystal: In this segment, we'll talk about small groups.

[Crystal appears on screen. She is seated in a home setting.]

Crystal: Every major research study on infant and toddler care has shown that small group size and low ratios of adults to children are key components of quality care. PITC recommends primary care ratios of one adult to three or four children and a total group size of six to 12 children, depending on their ages. The guiding principle is the younger the child, the smaller the group.

[Text briefly appears: Benefits of small groups.]

[Renee Underwood - Family Child Care Provider. Renee is seated in a home setting.]

Renee: In my family child care, we had 12 children and very much multi ages from infancy to preschoolers and I had a staff of four. No. Three, including myself, so the ratio was four to one. In family child care, in the small group settings, many of the children and the families become very close to each other because that conversation and interactions make their relationship trustworthy and also their interactions increase their learning skills because they can bounce their activities and thoughts off each other. And they're copying and they're repetitiveness. How they see one child do one thing, they may try it the next time. And when they see some anxiety in another child, they're able to develop some empathy also and understand their discomforts. That ability to empathize and to encourage starts at a very early age and this small group setting makes that so very possible because the children are so close to each other, they become almost like partners and they can help each other out a lot. And when they go home and do the conversation with their parents, parents also become knowledgeable of their children's group.

[Pyrena Tang - Family Child Care Provider. Pyrena is seated in a conference room. Her husband is seated next to her listening as she speaks. She is speaking Cantonese. English subtitles appear on screen. As she speaks, a montage of short video clips play, showing Pyrena and her husband interacting with children and parents in their family child care home.]

Pyrena: Actually, family child care homes, on top of providing parents with a safe place and to have someone look after their children, they also provide an opportunity for children to meet people outside of their family, including other children in the Family Child Care home, the caregiver and the family members of the caregiver. A childcare home gives children a chance to build relationships and learn how to live and get along with other people. It's crucial in developing a sense of security. It's one the reasons why Family Child Care homes are so important.

[Adriana Castillo - Family Child Care Provider. Adriana is seated in a family child care setting. She is speaking Spanish. English subtitles appear on screen.]

Adriana: Well, working with a small group, the advantages are that you know the children better, you are more relaxed, there is a stronger connection, the environment is calmer, more relaxed, more ways to start observing a baby or a child in more detail, how they use the play areas, how they go and connect with their peers. In other words, you can go deeper to help him, to encourage him, to share with the family. For me, the small groups are one of the most essential and fundamental parts, but small groups are much more, much more relaxing, both for the caregiver and for the children.

Provider: Where'd they go? Go get them Paxton

[A family child care provider sits on his knees next to a small slide and interacts with two children. A child named Paxton picks up two balls off the ground.]

[As Paxton picks up the balls, an older child briefly speaks to the provider. The older child is chasing a soccer ball around in the background.]

[The older child tosses the ball off camera. The older child continues chasing the ball around the playground.]

Provider: You missed again? But I think you can make it this time...ALMOST!

[Paxton places the two smaller balls at the bottom of the slide with a bounce. He stands at the bottom of the slide so as to keep the balls from rolling off the bottom of the slide. The provider turns his attention back to Paxton. Paxton screams with joy as he bounces the balls in the air and tries to roll them up the slide. One ball falls off the slide. The provider smiles, grabs the ball, places it at the top of the slide, and rolls it down to Paxton.]

Provider: Ready?! There it comes.

[Paxton stops the rolling ball with the other hand. He throws one of the balls in the air and screams with delight.]

[Text appears on screen: PITC would like to thank the following programs for their thoughtful contributions to this video series:]

- Casa de Aprendizaje, Santa Cruz
- Cheri Quishenberi Family Child Care, Lincoln
- Green Tree Preschool and Child Care, Perris
- Ideal Day Care, San Francisco
- Marva's Happytown, Alameda
- Modern Education Family Childcare, San Francisco
- N2KIDZ Preschool, Banning
- Sue's Child Care, Sacramento
- The Sandbox Daycare, Richmond

The PITC logo animates into position.]

Narrator: PITC, the Program for Infant Toddler Care, a collaboration of the California Department of Education and WestEd.

[The California Department of Education (CDE) logo and the WestEd logo appear.]

Narrator: Brought to you by the California Department of Education and WestEd.