



Choosing The Right Childcare Program

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UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.)—An important decision for working parents to make is selecting the right child care provider. Parents need to keep in mind that they are hiring a "substitute parent" to spend a large portion of

each day with their child. A child care provider becomes a major figure in a child's life. At times the provider spends more "awake" time with the child than the parent. Children are important. Choosing child care is a major decision. Consumers often spend less time to buy a service like child care

than they do to buy a car, t.v., or washing machine. When it comes to selecting child care, many parents sign up for the first empty spot. Sometimes, the whole arrangement takes place over the telephone.

Parents first need to decide which type of care they prefer for their child. State regulated programs include: child care centers—seven or more children; group child care homes—allow a total of twelve children; family child care homes—up to six unrelated children; and nursery schools—usually part-time programs.

The second step is to visit several centers or homes and interview the staff. Questions need to be asked about types of activities, schedules, how discipline is handled, and if independence is promoted.

A parent needs to look around carefully for cleanliness. Safety issues should be checked. Is there a first aid kit? Are emergency telephone numbers posted? Are cleaning materials and medicines kept in locked cabinets?

Find out if parents are welcome to visit. What are the payment policies and how are vacation or sick days handled? These are just a few of the questions to be asked.

Several centers or homes should be checked out thoroughly to find the best one for the child.

Lancaster Society 8

Farm Women No. 8 met on October 11 at Donegal Creek Farm. Kathryn Hess gave devotions and hostesses were Anna Mae Derr, Mary Ann Spangler, Molly Baer and Helen Wivell. Members enjoyed a harvest-time

dinner. Helen Wivell spoke of the history of the farm and her son, Joe, talked of the details involved in dairy farming.

The November 8 meeting will be at the home of Alice Walter in Elizabethtown.

Lancaster Society 18

Lancaster Farm Women Society 18 held its October meeting at the Gathering Place. Husbands attended as guests.

Elmer Horst, a humorist, recounted many amusing events. His college life at Lebanon Valley showed in his adept play on words

presented with a twist of humor.

The bus trip to Ott's Exotic Gardens and Chrysanthemum Mountain at Schwenksville plus a visit to Skippack's charming village of gift shops had every seat filled and no room for late requests.

Berks Society 6

The September meeting of Berks County Farm Women Group #6 met at the home of Sallie Hauseman, Boyertown. The members made name tags for the county convention. Five members attended the county convention held at the Ag Center on Oct. 7. Ilona Houp was installed as a

new members by Pres. Janet Schlegel.

November 2 is bingo at the Berks Heim Annex, several members will help

The next meeting will be Celebration of Farm Women's Day, it will be held at Roger Frantz County Manor.

Lancaster Society 20

Lancaster Farm Women Society 20 met October 5 for a brunch at the home of Barbara Stone. Marie Foose served as co-hostess. Roll call was answered by members donating a gift of clothing for Christ's Home.

President Nancy Axe presided at the business meeting at which time the nominating committee reported the slate for officers included the following: Marie Foose, president; Jean Ressel, vice president; Anna Mary Groff, secretary; Dorothy Eckman, record-

ing secretary, and Vera Herr, treasurer.

Susan Bailey from Christ's Home told about the home's undenominational Christian work that was started in Philadelphia in 1903. There are two dorms for 25 children whose parents are alive but are unable to care for them. The home is not state funded but relies on contributions.

The November meeting at Dorothy Crawford's home with Pauline Reinhard serving as co-hostess.

Berks Society 4

Berks County Society 4 of Farm Women held its October meeting at the Leader Nursing Rehab Center in Pottstown. Evelyn Becker was hostess.

During the business session conducted by president Virginia Taylor, plans were made to visit

member Jean Waldo, a resident of Berks Heim, to celebrate her 90th birthday.

Canned items for the Multi-Service Food Pantry should be brought to the November 7 meeting to be held at the home of Barbara Shaner, Boyertown.

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