

TOUCHING LIVES

ON MARCH 10TH, WHEN CORONAVIRUS WAS SHUTTING DOWN THE COUNTRY, I ASKED MY CHILDCARE FAMILIES IF THEY WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE THEIR CHILDREN WITH ME FOR 21 DAYS.

MOST OF MY FAMILIES ARE ESSENTIAL WORKERS AND THIS GAVE PARENTS THE MUCH-NEEDED TIME TO FIGURE OUT THE BEST PLAN FOR THEIR FAMILY WHILE THEIR CHILDREN WERE SAFE WITH ME IN AN ENVIRONMENT THEY WERE USED TO.

ALL OF MY FAMILIES TOOK ME UP ON MY OFFER - THANK GOODNESS FOR MY 24-HOUR LICENSE!



Since the food program doesn't cover all meals, the families took turns bringing supper and leaving it at the back door. We had Zoom meetings with parents and Facetime meetings with grandparents. None of the children were scared or asking to go home. After 21 days, some children went home to their parents to stay.

Five children are still receiving daily care. Parents shower before picking children up. They have one vehicle that they designated as the car for pick up and drop off which is not the vehicle that goes to work daily. Parents text me when they arrive, wear masks, and none come into the childcare anymore.

My hours are longer and I deep clean every night along with cleaning several times daily. Some of our toys are not out anymore as they are too hard to clean properly. Each child has their own box for shoes and jackets and we don't allow show and tell anymore either. The children that still come miss the other children who are at home with their parents, but we continue to host Zoom meetings, Facetime visits and virtual playdates and birthday parties as well.

Parents are really trying hard to keep me and the children healthy and for that, I am very grateful. I love what I do. I have the best job ever.



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Editor's Note: Vicky has been a child care provider for over 40 years and is a CACFP participant with Midwest Child Care Association. She has sewn over 700 face masks and distributed them across almost all 50 states to adults who were formerly in her child care.

 Generations Day Care

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