

Back to Work!

Five Tips to Help Encourage Your Daycare Provider to Cloth Diaper Your Baby

For many parents, sending your child to daycare as you head back to work is filled with as much emotion as preparation. This process is exacerbated if you're a committed cloth diapering parent too. To date, many daycare settings have preferred the convenience of disposable diapers; however a Real Diaper Association (RDA) study found that with a little education and passion, moms can get past any daycare naysayers.

Here are some tips to getting your daycare provider on board with cloth diapering your little one:

Tip #1: Demonstrate cloth diapering

What you don't know will hurt you! Your daycare provider may have never used modern cloth diapers before, which may lead them to be sheepish about cloth diapers altogether. Bring in a cloth diaper to demonstrate how it works when you go in to discuss this topic with your daycare provider. Seeing is believing!

Tip #2: Recommend trial period

Often the recommendation of a trial period of 2-3 weeks will disarm your daycare provider's objections. They know they're not committing to anything, yet they are being reasonable with you. Suggest that you use this period to see how it goes – and to learn what rules need to be in place to make this work long-term, if possible.

Tip #3: Know the law

Unfortunately, some daycare providers may suggest it is against the law for the center to use cloth diapers. Respectfully remind the provider that you understand their concerns and that's why you researched this topic beforehand (which you should do!). To learn about daycare diapering laws specific to your state, check the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education website at <http://nrckids.org/STATES/states.htm>.

Tip #4: Let them know what's in it for them

Tell them about the benefits cloth diapers provides specifically to their center. They may find their teachers spend less time taking out trash and more time with their kids. Further, the daycare's director may find promotional opportunities given that they are now an "eco-friendly" daycare – a moniker green-minded moms like to see and which may lead to new clientele.

Tip #5: Shop around

If cloth diapering your baby is important to you, be sure to shop around for daycares willing to listen. When interviewing new daycares let them know that you cloth diaper and would like to continue to do so. Bring a sample of the diaper with you at all meetings and let them know you will provide education, products for containment and will wash them each day to keep with their levels of sanitation. If they continue to shoot down the idea... move on. There are plenty of excellent daycares out there willing to work with you.

