



My'Eisa Miller

Co-founder Miller's Learn N' Play Daycare
NAFCC South Carolina State Representative

My'Eisa Miller from Kingstree, South Carolina is the CEO/Owner of Miller's Learn N' Play Daycare in Kingstree. She holds an associate's degree in liberal studies, a Bachelor's degree in Disaster and Emergency Management, a Master's degree in Business Administration, and is currently completing her Master's degree in Education.

Her career started in the public safety field as a Communications Chief with the

Williamsburg County E-911 Department. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she saw an increased need for care services that catered to local first responders. Because of the hours they worked many struggled to find quality child care services. This motivated My'Eisa to transition from public safety into the child care industry and start her child care business.

Miller's Learn N' Play Daycare opened in May of 2021. Since becoming a family child care provider, she has become an advocate for all family child care providers in South Carolina. She is a member of Leaders Shaping Leaders Cohort 2023 with NAFCC and is also a part of South Carolina Resource and Referral, a Community of Practice Cohort.

In July 2024 she was elected to be the State Representative for Family Care through NAFCC. It's through these organizations and programs that she can support and advocate for family child care providers throughout the state of South Carolina. She knows first-hand the important role that family child care providers play within their communities. It is her sincere goal to further promote, progress, and improve family child care for providers and families that they serve.

We spoke with My'Eisa and were able to ask her some questions about the state of FCC in South Carolina, her success, and advice she has for other providers. Here are some of her responses:

What does being a representative of South Carolina's family care providers mean to you?

Being a State Representative for family child care providers means a great deal to me. I'm relatively new to the child care industry. I questioned if I was qualified to take on the role, but I'm so glad I didn't let my insecurities stop me from applying.

Even though I'm a rookie, I have a sincere passion for family care. My goal has always been to help progress the profession positively and advocate for the issues surrounding providers, families, and communities we serve. As I am the state representative for South Carolina, this platform allows me to do just that.

What do you feel has made your business most successful and helped you provide the highest quality of care?

Passion, drive, and mentorship have been the keys to my success and the quality of care we provide at Miller's Learn N' Play Daycare. A sincere passion for child care is imperative to your success because you are doing something you genuinely love. Drive is essential because your follow-through ensures you set and strive to achieve goals. Lastly, mentorship is important because you don't know everything, so seek mentors with knowledge, experience, and expertise in all the areas in which you are weak/inexperienced that can help propel you forward in your journey.

What are you most proud of as an early care provider? What have your biggest wins been?

I'm most proud of all that I've been able to accomplish in three years. With the support of my sister and business partner Tamaya Miller, we have utilized both of our strengths to achieve great things in family child care. We opened our daycare in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic and have been able to navigate and prosper within our business. Her support has allowed me to pursue other avenues in family child care, such as participating in the Leaders Shaping Leaders Cohort with NAFCC and becoming the first State Representative for family child care in South Carolina through NAFCC.

What advice do you have for FCC providers looking to improve their business/quality of care?

The best advice I can give to Family Child Care providers looking to improve their business/quality of care is to educate yourself. Take the time to research and identify your market and how you can use your business to fulfill your community's needs.



Build relationships and networks within the child care community with people who can help support you through their knowledge, resources, and experience. Lastly, push through your setbacks. You will face many challenges and obstacles within the family child care business, but work through them and use them to help improve your business's quality.

Tawyna Ritenour

Founder, child care provider of 36 years
NAFCC Accredited Child Care Provider



I have been a child care provider for thirty-seven years, having started my journey when my first child was an infant. My desire to be a stay-at-home mother is what led me to this path, and I have embraced that role ever since. My firstborn is now thirty-eight years old, and I am blessed with two grandchildren. Currently, I reside in Goose Creek, South Carolina, and I have served as a military child care provider for thirty-four years, beginning with the Navy and now at Joint Base Charleston. I provide care around the clock for parents in the Air Force who require child care services outside of regular daycare hours. My responsibilities include transporting children to and from the Child Development Center (CDC) and caring for children whose parents are deployed for six months at a time. I strive to create a home-away-from-home environment for these children. While it is often said that being a stay-at-home parent is fulfilling, I can attest that this role offers even more. It is incredibly rewarding to witness these children grow into adulthood, start families of their own, and to know that I played a part in their development. The peace of mind that parents experience when entrusting their children to my care is something they still express even twenty-five years later. Having these children connected to me through social media, sharing memories, and always reflecting fondly on our time together is truly precious. At sixty-two years of age, I remain uncertain about when I will eventually conclude my career in child care.

What does being a representative of South Carolina's family child care providers mean to you?

Advocacy for Quality Care- It involves championing high standards of care and education for young children, ensuring that family child care providers have the resources, training, and support needed to excel

Voice for Providers- Representing family child care means being the voice for

providers in discussions about policies, funding, and regulations that affect their operations and the quality of care they provide.

Strengthening the Community- It signifies a commitment to building a strong network among family child care providers, fostering collaboration, sharing best practices, and supporting each other in professional development.

Promoting Accessibility and Affordability- This role involves advocating for policies that make child care services accessible and affordable for families, addressing the barriers that many caregivers face in accessing quality care.

Addressing Workforce Challenges- It means taking action to tackle workforce shortages, advocating for better compensation and benefits for child care workers, and supporting initiatives that recruit and retain talented professionals.

Supporting Diverse Families- Representing family child care providers includes a dedication to serving diverse families and ensuring that all children receive equitable access to quality care, regardless of their background.

What do you feel has made your business most successful and helped you provide the highest quality of care?

The ability to maintain operations and provide care during the pandemic has been crucial. Additionally, we have received numerous grants that have facilitated enhancements to my program. I am also an NAFCC provider, which allows me to participate in conferences and connect with other professionals in the child care sector who share a similar vision.

What are you most proud of as an early care provider, what have your biggest wins been?

I have been honored to be recognized as the Provider of the Year for the military community. I am committed to delivering essential care for military families. Additionally, I have developed close relationships with many of the families in my child care program, whom I consider to be part of my extended family. It is a privilege to witness the growth of so many of my children as they mature and establish families of their own.

What advice do you have for FCC providers looking to improve their business/quality of care?

Focus on Child Development- Implement age-appropriate educational programs that promote cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development. Use play-based learning methods to engage children and foster creativity and critical thinking.
Create a Safe and Nurturing Environment- Ensure that the facility meets all safety regulations and standards, conducting regular safety checks. - Foster a warm,

welcoming atmosphere where children feel secure and valued.

Engage with Families- Establish open lines of communication with parents through regular updates, newsletters, and parent-teacher conferences. - Involve families in the learning process by encouraging their participation in events and activities.

What are you most looking forward to seeing evolve in child care over the next year?

The landscape of child care is continuously evolving, with several trends and innovations expected to shape the sector over the next year. Here are some key areas to watch:

Technology Integration- Greater adoption of educational technology will enhance learning experiences, including the use of interactive apps, online platforms for parental engagement, and virtual reality for immersive learning.

Flexible Scheduling and Hybrid Models- As families seek more adaptive child care solutions, providers may offer flexible hours and hybrid models that combine in-person and online learning options to accommodate diverse needs.

Enhanced Health and Safety Protocols- Continued vigilance in health and safety measures due to ongoing concerns around infectious diseases may lead to more rigorous sanitation practices and emergency preparedness plans.

Nature-Based and Outdoor Learning- There will be a rise in programs focusing on outdoor activities and nature-based education, promoting physical activity and environmental stewardship.



Thank you to My'Eisa Miller and Tawyna Ritenour for sharing their time with us and giving us a peek into their success as family child care providers! Thank you also to all family child care providers in South Carolina. Many families are seeking child care outside of a traditional center setting in homes where they can develop an even closer connection to their child's provider. My'Eisa and Tawyna made it clear that they see these children as part of their extended families, and we celebrate the work they have done to advocate for early care and education, their communities, and their fellow providers!