

Where Can I Get Help Writing a Child Care Business Plan?



A BUSINESS PLAN is an important tool regardless of whether you are starting a non-profit or for-profit child care operation. It will help you think ahead, make decisions, and predict your finances. In addition, if you want to apply to for a loan or grant, you may be required to submit a business plan. Fortunately, there are many free and affordable resources to help you write yours.

BUSINESS PLANS can look very different from one another. It is a good idea to start by looking at sample business plans to see what key topics they cover:

- » Futurpreneur Canada (www.futurpreneur.ca) provides a sample child care business plan at: <http://goo.gl/S04rZy>
- » You can read sample child care business plans on the U.K. website www.BPlans.com: <http://goo.gl/IfSABf>

Next, you might want to PICK A TEMPLATE OR GUIDE to work from:

- » The Business Development Bank of Canada (www.bdc.ca) provides an MS Word template you can download and edit. It is not specific to child care. You must have Word 97 or newer: <http://goo.gl/9dcL6q>

- » You could also try using this First Children's Finance (www.firstchildrensfinance.org) child care Business Plan Outline as a starting point (*First Children's Finance is a U.S. financial institution*): <http://goo.gl/RP4cGt>

THERE ARE INTERACTIVE TOOLS available to help you work through the various sections of your business plan:

- » Try the Futurpreneur Business Planning tool: www.futurpreneur.ca/en/bplan/
- » Check your bank's website – many major banks offer an online business planning tool.
- » You could also try purchasing one of the many business plan apps available for your smartphone.

PERSONALIZED ASSISTANCE can help you write and fine-tune your business plan:

- » See if you qualify for free business planning advice from one of the organizations mentioned on the "Business Information, Guidance, and Financing" info sheet available at: <http://goo.gl/0hnsCc>
- » For a fee, you can arrange an hour of one-on-one business planning advice (*plus two follow-up appointments, if needed*) from a Small Business BC expert, either in person or by Skype/phone: <http://goo.gl/XOsf0F>



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