

As a practicing Pediatrician, I placed my daughter in home daycare while I pursued my career many years ago. I felt that the small homey environment was more similar to being at home than a larger industry center. When my daughter chose First Steps Home Child Care as her daycare for my 1<sup>st</sup> grandchild, I was supportive of her decision and excited to hear all of the wonderful stories she shared with me about what types of things my grandson was being exposed to daily. In addition I could see the fun he was having from the daily online postings.

I have watched my grandson grow and flourish into a thriving toddler who is both inquisitive about his environment and willing to engage with new people and experience new things. Having treated thousands of infants and toddlers throughout my career, I can honestly say I have never seen a more engaged child who has a hearty appetite and discerning palate 😊. He is a typical toddler, but I can honestly say that he is well socialized and a joy to be around both at home and in public.

What has impressed me most with First Steps and Damaris's team is the fact that they have successfully potty-trained my 2-year old grandson which I was very skeptical about. Rarely, in all my years of practice, have I seen a 2 year old boy potty-trained – as most have no interest in potty-training until they are closer to 2.5/3 years old. In fact, I told my daughter not to worry about potty-training for another 6 months because it was highly unlikely it would take. Wrong! I was wrong! I give the credit to Damaris and First Steps.

Not only do they take an active interest in the development of your infant/toddler, but they help you (as a parent) work with your child to reach behavioral and physical developmental goals. With the focus in my practice being the fight against childhood obesity, I was grateful to see First Steps serving homemade organic foods to the children in their care and introducing new veggies and fruits to them on a regular basis.

I can't say enough about First Steps Home Childcare and I give them my highest recommendation as both a Pediatrician and a grandmother!

Sincerely,  
Alma E. Buckner MD  
Advocate Healthcare