



our Founding History

Elzadie, better known as “Zadie,” is the Owner/Founder and Executive Director of Zadie’s™ Nurturing Den and Zadie’s™ Early Childhood Center, though her less formal title is Caregiver. Elzadie B. Smith was born and raised in Tifton, Georgia. She, her husband of more than 39 years, G. Winston Smith, and their three children resided in Decatur, Georgia until her husband’s job transferred him to New Jersey. Relocating to Summit proved to be a momentous occasion for the Smith family.

With children aged 10 months to 11 years, Zadie began looking for quality childcare comparable to the hands on care that her children received in Georgia. It was an impossible task. After years of settling for what she considered to be sub-par care, Zadie began pursuing her vision of providing superior care for children of working parents. Three months after attending a session at Programs for Parents, a federally funded program which teaches the basics of starting a home-based child-care facility, Zadie was nurturing her first five babies in her home.

Quickly, the number of interested families grew, and Zadie was faced with finding more adequate space. The Smith’s would have to overcome many obstacles before their dream could be realized. And overcome them they did. In the fall of 2001, Zadie’s Nurturing Den opened its doors in Summit, NJ, providing a warm and nurturing place for children.

Today, Zadie’s™ Nurturing Den is run by Zadie and her daughter, Winifred Smith. This mother-daughter team has made Zadie’s™ Nurturing Den a state-of-the-art facility for childcare that is unmatched by any other. With their success, Zadie and Winifred have expanded their operations by managing state-of-the-art home based childcare facilities, where infants are nurtured and enriched with critical early learning experiences. And, Zadie and Winifred have built upon their success by opening Zadie’s Early Childhood Center.

Zadie’s™ Early Childhood Center, where daily operations are run by Winifred Smith, is located at 280 South Harrison Street. It is conveniently located off the Garden State Parkway and Interstate 280. As with Zadie’s™ Nurturing Den, Zadie’s™ Early Childhood Center is a state of the art childcare facility, providing a rigorous academic and child development program, located in an urban area.

Zadie’s vision of providing the highest possible quality childcare services to children of working parents is being realized at Zadie’s™ Nurturing Den, Summit, NJ and Zadie’s™ Early Childhood Center, East Orange, NJ.

Today, the Zadie’s™ conglomerate, where her daughter and daughter-in-law have critical roles, involves many employees and vendors with interests and efforts focused on delivering the high quality childcare and developmental services to children of working parents.