



Child Care Checklist

There are many things to consider when choosing child care. Please read the list below or download our Child Care Checklist to keep with you as you visit potential child care providers. This list can also be used to help you periodically evaluate if the provider you have chosen is still right for you and your child.

Make Sure you Visit and Ask Questions

Make a Choice

Use our checklist as a guide. Think about what you saw at each visit, and make the best choice for your child and family. Follow your instincts.

Stay Involved

The work isn't over when you find good care for your child. It's important to stay involved and communicate with your caregiver on a regular basis. Even if you can't get time off from work during the day, you can still check in at drop-off and pick-up times. Ask the caregiver how things are going, and how your child is doing.

Visiting and participating in events at your child's provider sends a strong message. It tells your child and your child's caregiver that you think what your child is doing and learning is important.

Checklist

The following points are good ways to measure the quality of a child care home or center:

Caregivers/Teachers

- Seem to really like children
- Get down on each child's level to speak to the child
- Children are greeted when they arrive
- Children's needs are quickly met even when things get busy
- Are trained in CPR, first aid, and early childhood education
- The program keeps up with children's changing interests
- Your questions are welcomed
- There is communication about your child's daily activities
- Parents' ideas are welcomed. There are ways for you to get involved
- The adults and children obviously enjoy being together
- There appears to be enough adults to serve the children?
- Caregivers/teachers are trained and experienced. They are involved in continuing education programs.
- They have participated in early childhood development classes.



Setting

- The atmosphere is bright and pleasant
- Is there a fenced-in outdoor play area with a variety of safe equipment? Can the adults see the entire playground at all times?
- Are there different areas for resting, quiet play and active play? Is there enough space for the children in all of these areas?

Activities

- Is there a daily balance of play time, story time, activity time and nap time?
- Are the activities right for each age group?
- Are there enough toys and learning materials for the number of children?
- Are toys clean, safe and within reach of the children?

In General

- Do you agree with the discipline practices?
- Do you hear the sounds of happy children?
- Are children comforted when needed?
- Is the program licensed or regulated?
- Are surprise visits by parents encouraged?
- Will your child be happy there?