

Child Care Checklist

As you research and visit child care programs, use this Child Care Checklist to help make your selection.



BASIC INFORMATION

- ☐ The hours suit my schedule.
- ☐ The fees fit my price range.
- ☐ Meals and snacks are appetizing.
- ☐ Transportation is available.
- ☐ The group size and age grouping are acceptable.

THE ENVIRONMENT

- ☐ The setting is clean and cheerful.
- ☐ Children seem happy.
- ☐ Staff members and children get along well.
- ☐ There is a balanced daily routine.
- ☐ Children are comforted when needed.
- ☐ There are rules the children can understand and follow.
- ☐ There is a safety plan to follow in emergencies.
- ☐ Safety precautions are established.
- ☐ Different kinds of space are available for quiet play, active play and outdoor play.

- ☐ There is enough space for all activities.
- ☐ There are enough books, paints, blocks, musical toys, games and puzzles, etc.
- ☐ Children can get things for themselves.

STAFF

- ☐ They have been trained to care for children.
- ☐ Most staff have been in the program for at least one year.
- ☐ Disciplinary methods are acceptable.
- ☐ They are warm and friendly.
- ☐ Staff members take time to discuss a child's progress with parents regularly.
- ☐ Children are treated as individuals.
- ☐ In a family day home, ask how long the provider has been caring for children.
- ☐ Staff members seem to have enough time to look after all children.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

- ☐ Parents can visit unannounced.
- ☐ Parents are involved in decision-making.
- ☐ There are opportunities for parents to be involved with the program.
- ☐ Parents have a chance to speak with staff when they drop off and pick up children.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ☐ References are provided.
- ☐ People who have used this service speak well of it.
- ☐ I would be happy here if I were a child.
- ☐ I feel comfortable leaving my child here.

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