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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