Child Care: Day Care Safety Checklist

What to look for when visiting prospective day care centers and family day care homes.



- [ ] Child-to-staff ratio of 3:1 in a center caring for infants, 4:1 for 2-year-olds, and 7:1 for 3-year-olds.
- [ ] Children should be supervised at all times.
- [ ] Dedicated, friendly caregivers who are trained in child development, early-childhood education, or a related field
- [ ] Center that's licensed and regularly inspected for health and cleanliness
- [ ] Written policy on caring for ill children
- [ ] Limited or no TV viewing
- [ ] Safe sleep and play environments
- [ ] Clean toys in good condition with no sharp edges
- [ ] Diapering area separate from children's play areas
- [ ] Perishable food refrigerated
- [ ] Cleaning supplies and other toxic materials in locked cabinet
- [ ] Easily accessible first-aid kit and posted emergency numbers
- [ ] Electrical outlets covered with protective caps
- [ ] Security gates at top and bottom of stairs
- [ ] Window guards on all windows except designated fire exits
- [ ] Smoke alarms and fire extinguishers
- [ ] All outside play areas enclosed; soft surfaces under all equipment

- [ ] An emergency evacuation plan

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