

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

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An emergency evacuation plan

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