



Choosing Quality Childcare Checklist

What to Look For:

- Do the children look happy?
- Are the children involved in activities?
- Are there plenty of toys and books?
- Do the children appear to be well cared for?
- Are caregiverswarm and friendly? calm and patient?
- Do caregivers... listen to individual children? talk to individual children? play with the children? give children individual attention? let children choose some of their own activities?
- Are there enough caregivers for the number of children? Is the facility cheerful, clean and bright? Does the equipment seem clean, safe and in good repair?
- Is there space indoors...for several different play areas? for the children to have naps? for the children to keep their belongings? for lunchtime?
- Is the outdoor playground...fenced and safe? well-equipped? well-supervised?

What to ask about the program:

- What is the typical daily schedule?
- How often do the children play outdoors?
- What are some group activities the children participate in?
- What creative activities are offered for the children (art, music, drama)?
- What is the philosophy about education for young children?
- What is the lunch routine? Do children bring their lunch? Do they get a hot meal?
- In case of illness or emergency, how are parents notified? Is staff trained in emergency procedures?
- How do caregivers resolve conflicts between children? How do caregivers discipline the children?
- How are parents informed about exposure to a contagious illness? behavior? eating habits? napping habits? toileting?

What to ask about policies and staff:

- What are the rates? Is lunch served and is it included in the rate? Are special activities/field trips included? Are special services offered?
- What are the hours of operation? Is child care available during holidays? What are drop-off and pick-up times and policies?
- Can you provide a list of personal and professional references? Are references and background checks conducted on the staff? What kind of professional experience is required of the staff? How long has each caregiver worked there?
- Is the program licensed/accredited? (Ask to see posted license).

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