



# Child Care Selection~ A Parent's Checklist

This checklist will help you decide on quality child care for your child. Your child's time away from home should be safe, engaging and enjoyable. In addition to the cost, hours and days of operation, take a close look at the staff, environment and program.

## Staff

- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the provider appear to be warm, friendly, calm and patient?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What type of education/experience does the provider have?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What methods does the provider use for providing guidance and discipline?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the provider understand child development stages and the different stages of growth?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the provider talk a lot with the children and encourage them to talk?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the provider current with their state registration, CPR and First Aid?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the provider have references available for you to contact?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the provider participate in regular training and education related to child care?

## Physical Facilities, Health and Safety

- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the home in good repair, clean, appropriate temperature and good lighting?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the provider currently registered with the State Child Care Division? Have there been any substantiated complaints in the past 3 years?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is there enough space for different age groups?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What happens if the child becomes ill during the day?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What types of foods are served for meals and snacks?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the kitchen clean and safe?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is there space to play outside?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Will children be transported during the day? Are there enough car seats for all children? What type of insurance coverage does provider have?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the home safety-proofed (safety caps on outlets, smoke detectors, medicines/cleaning supplies out of children's reach, alternative exit for fire, blind cords out of children's reach and sleeping area, first aid kit and fire extinguisher). Are any weapons or firearms in the home? If yes, where are they stored?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are there pets in the home?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does anyone smoke in the home (during non child care hours too)?

- \_\_\_ Is it OK to visit the home unannounced?
- \_\_\_ Where and on what do children take naps?
- \_\_\_ How many children are currently cared for, what are their ages?
- \_\_\_ Where does diapering take place? Is there a method for changing and disposing of diapers to ensure that health standards are met?

### **Program**

- \_\_\_ What are the program fees and rates? When is payment due?
- \_\_\_ Are there any extra fees (for supplies, late pick up)?
- \_\_\_ Do fees include diapers and formula?
- \_\_\_ Is there a fee if child is sick or on vacation?
- \_\_\_ Does the program have structure? What does a typical day look like?
- \_\_\_ Does the provider have policies and contracts for parents?
- \_\_\_ How often does the provider share verbal or written information with parents?
- \_\_\_ What types of activities do children participate in to develop language, cognitive, social/emotional and physical skills?
- \_\_\_ Are children allowed to watch TV? If so, how much?

### **Especially for Infants and Toddlers:**

- \_\_\_ Is feeding and diapering done in a loving, patient and competent manner?
- \_\_\_ Does the provider spend time holding, engaging with, playing with, and talking to infants?
- \_\_\_ How long are infants put in playpens, bouncy sits or cribs? Do infants have plenty of floor time in an environment that is safe from hazards and older children?
- \_\_\_ What special training has the provider(s) completed to care for infants?