



## Choosing Quality Child Care - A Checklist for Parents

Research tells us that our children's healthy development depends on safe and positive experiences during the first few years of life. If you are a parent that needs care for your child during these early years, choosing a quality child care setting is one of the most important decisions you will ever make for your child. Consider asking the Coordinator of your child's potential center the following questions as you prepare to make your decision:

### General Care/Supervision

What will my child experience on a typical day?	
How will my child be disciplined?	
Do the teachers have at least one year of experience in a child care setting?	
Do the teachers have education or training in Early Childhood Education?	
What are the child/staff ratios?	
Are children allowed to watch TV?	
How do you handle nap time?	
What if I need someone else to pick my child up from the center?	
How do you ensure that all children receive individual attention?	
How does your center go above and beyond what is required by state licensing rules?	
Do I have to provide meals and snacks?	

### Classroom/Teacher

How do you help children transition into the center each morning?	
Can I visit at any time?	
Are the teachers aware of my child's individual development?	
What types of activities are planned for my child?	
How do teachers help my child get ready for kindergarten?	

What types of learning materials do you have?	
Do teachers appear to be calm, relaxed and enjoying themselves?	

### Infant/Toddler Specific

How do you handle toilet training?	
How do teachers supervise children while diapering?	
Does the diaper changing area appear clean?	
Do teachers wash their hands before and after the diapering process?	
Have teachers received training on safe sleeping procedures?	
How often are diapers changed?	
Do I have to provide diapers or wipes?	

### Safety

Have teachers been trained in First Aid, CPR, and Communicable Disease?	
Where are medications kept?	
Have teachers been trained to administer medication?	
Have all teachers received a background check?	
How often are emergency drills conducted?	
Is there a plan in case of emergency (fire, tornado, flood, earthquake, or intruder)?	
Does each classroom have a first aid kit?	
Where are cleaning solutions kept?	
How often is the playground inspected for safety?	
How do you ensure that all children are up-to-date in their immunizations?	
How often are toys cleaned?	

### Other

Are there openings available?	
Do you have a waiting list?	
What are the hours of operation?	
What are the rates?	
Will I receive a multiple child discount?	
Do you offer any tuition assistance?	