

Choosing Childcare



Category	Issues/Things to consider	Check if yes
Safety	Is the facility safe for children (no dangerous conditions like peeling paint, exposed sharp edges, sharp objects like scissors left lying around)?	
	Is there control of visitors to center/provider's home?	
	Is there a fire drill/evacuation plan?	
	Does the provider/center have emergency plans? Are they posted (on the wall)?	
	Does the provider/center have emergency contact information on file for each child?	
	Is there a caregiver present at all times who knows CPR and first aid?	
	Are detergents, cleaners, and medicines out of children's reach?	
Cleanliness/ condition of home or facility	Does the environment appear to be clean and orderly?	
	Does the environment feel friendly and warm?	
Quality/age appropriateness of activities	Are activities planned? Is there a set schedule?	
	Does the provider/center offer other educational activities (e.g. help with homework, reading, counting and math exercises, etc.)?	
	Does the provider have experience/training working with children with special developmental needs?	
	Are there ample materials/toys for the number of children receiving care?	
	Is there a variety of toys and supplies (creative materials like paints, markers, crayons, coloring books)?	
	Is there a space set up for children to nap?	
	Will child participate in any outdoor activities? Is there a playground or access to a nearby park?	
Staff motivation/ interaction with children	Does staff seem interested in children/activities?	
	Does staff act warmly/affectionately toward children?	
	Do children seem engaged in activities? Appear to be happy?	
	Does staff ask questions about your child's needs?	
	Do you agree with the provider's/center's discipline methods?	
Nutrition	Is food provided by the center/provider?	
	Is the menu posted? Is the food nutritious? Will your child like the food?	
	Will the provider/center accommodate children with special dietary needs?	
	Will the provider/center follow religious/ethnic dietary restrictions?	
Language/ethnic issues	Does provider speak child/parent's language?	
	Will provider respect child's religious/ethnic practices?	
Staff to child ratio	Are there enough caregivers to give child individual attention? (See state mandated staff to child ratio)	
Parent/caregiver feedback	Are there parent-caregiver conferences for parents to give feedback on child's care?	
	Are there other ways for parents to evaluate care and give feedback to the provider/center?	
	Are there ways for the provider/center to comment on your child's growth and development?	