

Planning Ahead for Childcare



Answer the following questions to figure out your childcare needs, even if you already have a childcare provider:

- What are your work hours? During what hours will you need childcare?
- What are your childcare provider's hours (e.g. 9 AM to 5 PM, 8 AM to 6PM)? Do these hours fit with your work schedule?
- If you don't work during regular business hours (9 AM to 5 PM) or you don't have a set work schedule, have you considered a childcare provider that offers more flexible hours (for example, a licensed Family Childcare Provider who offers childcare services in his or her home)?
- Is the provider conveniently located (e.g. near your work or home)?
- Will you need transportation **for your child** to and from the childcare provider?
- Does your child have any special needs (e.g. food allergy, learning problem)?
- Will your provider care for your child during holidays and the summer?
- What will happen if your child is sick? Does the provider care for mildly ill children?
- What will your child do while under the care of the provider? Will the provider read to your child or do other educational activities?
- What would happen if your childcare provider couldn't care for your children because he or she was sick or for some other reason?
- Do you have a back-up childcare plan for these types of emergencies?

Answer the following questions if you have a provider now but are looking for a new one:

- Do you have at least three choices to consider?
- Can you use your current childcare arrangement until a space becomes available with the new provider?