

child care checklist



basics

- License is displayed, if required.
- Required adult to child ratios are met.
- Written policies are available (including discipline policy).
- Group size is small enough to allow individual attention.
- The hours and location meet my needs.

physical facility

- The rooms are bright, cheerful and clean.
- Enough space is provided for activities.
- Children can get things themselves with ease.

- There are enough toys, paints, books, etc. for all children.
- Equipment (chairs, tables, sinks, toilets) is all child size and in good condition.

staff

- Caregivers have worked here for a year or more.
- Caregivers appear to enjoy what they do.
- Positive discipline techniques are used.
- Children are treated as individuals.
- Caregivers comfort the children when needed.

parental involvement

- Parents may make surprise visits (open-door policy).
- Lines of communication between parents and staff are open.
- Parent participation is encouraged.
- Parents are notified if accidents occur.

program

- Daily schedule is posted.
- Quiet and active play are balanced.
- Activities are age-appropriate and address the children's needs (physical, emotional, social and cognitive).
- A variety of music is played during the day.
- The children have opportunities to be read to during each day.
- Rest/nap policy is reasonable.

health and safety

- Emergency contacts are kept on file.
- Staff members have CPR/First Aid training.
- Staff observes safe hygiene (wash hands before and after diapering each child and wiping faces).
- Staff members change gloves after each diaper change.
- Diaper changing pads are non-absorbent and thoroughly cleaned after each baby is changed.
- Infants/toddlers are able to explore the environment safely.
- Babies are placed on their backs to sleep.

training/credentials

- Staff members have special training in early childhood education.
- Lead teachers have a college degree in early childhood education or Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.
- Formal child care programs have national accreditation.
- Family child care providers have a CDA credential or accreditation by National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC).

general impression

- Children seem happy here.
- I would feel comfortable leaving my child here.
- I would be happy here as a child.
- There is a calm and nurturing environment at this facility. ■