

Quality Child Care Checklist

(Please print and copy this form to take with you to each child care facility you visit)

Name of child care provider/facility _____

Address _____

Phone #: _____ Contact person _____

We suggest you visit at least 3 different programs and at different times of the day, if at all possible. The following points are a good way to measure the quality of a family child care home or child development center. Place a check mark (✓) in the box if "yes" for and an "X," if no:

Caregivers/Teachers

- Does the caregiver seem to really like children?
- Are children greeted when they arrive?
- Does the caregiver get down on the child's level to speak to him/her?
- Are children's needs met quickly even when things get busy?
- Is the caregiver trained in CPR and first aid?
- Is the caregiver involved in continuing education programs?
- Does the program keep up with children's changing interests?
- Is the caregiver willing to answer your questions?
- Does the caregiver communicate with parents about the child's "day"?
- Are the parents' ideas welcomed and are there ways for you to get involved?
- Do the caregiver and the children enjoy being together?
- Is there enough staff to meet the needs of the children?
- What kind of experience does the caregiver have? Does the caregiver participate in early childhood development classes?

Setting

- Is the atmosphere bright and pleasant?
- Is the environment clean and well maintained?
- Is the outdoor play area safe and offer a variety of equipment for different ages?
- Can the caregiver see the entire playground at all times?
- Are there areas for resting, quiet and active play with enough space for the children?

Activities

- Is there a daily balance of playtime, story time, activity time, and naptime?
- Are activities appropriate for each age group?
- Are there enough toys and learning materials for the number of children?
- Are toys clean, safe, and within reach of the children?

In General

- Do you agree with the discipline practices?
- Do you hear the sounds of happy children?
- Are children comforted when needed?
- Is the program licensed or registered?
- Are surprise visits by parents encouraged?
- Will your child be happy here?

Information provided by GetChildCareNOW.com.
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