



"The First Stop on the Track to Learning"

Things to Consider When Choosing a Childcare Center for Your Child

1. Safety -

Yes No

- Does the center have an emergency preparedness plan in place?
- Are there first-aid kits available in each of the classrooms?
- Are the teachers informed of the center's emergency policies?
- Is the facility free of any visible safety hazards?
- Are electrical outlets covered with safety caps?
- Are toys free from broken or missing pieces?
- Are sharp items, cleaning chemicals and medications out of reach of children?
- Is the play area safe for the ages of the children who will be using it?
- Is the play equipment age appropriate and in good condition?
- Is there cushioning material placed in all fall zones?
- Is there enough space in the classrooms for the children to move around safely without being crowded?
- Is there a security system in place to ensure that only authorized individuals are entering the building?
- Is there an employee in the front lobby ensuring only the proper individuals enter or exit the building?

2. Cleanliness -

Yes No

- Is the facility clean and free of odor?
- Is the bedding clean and comfortable and not used by more than one child unless laundered in between?
- Are the classrooms organized and free from clutter?

3. Health & Nutrition -

Yes No

- Is the food served nutritious and age appropriate?
- Are the children allowed second servings if requested?
- Is water offered to the children regularly?
- Are the children's hands washed after toileting and before and after eating?
- Are the children kept clean?
- Is there an area for sick children to be cared for until the parent arrives?

4. Teacher/Child Interaction -

Yes No

- Are all of the children being attended to?
- Are all of the children actively engaged in an activity?
- Are the children and teachers comfortable with each other?
- Are the teachers frequently down at the child's level making eye contact with them?
- Are the teacher's voice levels low and calm, without yelling, whining or arguing?
- Do the teachers show affection toward young children, hugging and holding them and interacting closely?
- Are the children spoken to in a respectful manner?
- Do the teachers sit and talk with the children during meal times?
- Are the children valued and encouraged?

5. Activities/Lesson Plans -

Yes No

- Are there daily schedules and lesson plans posted in each of the classrooms?
- Are the classroom schedules and lesson plans being followed each day?
- Do the children feel good about themselves and proud of the things they have accomplished?
- Are the children learning age-appropriate self-help skills?
- Are the children challenged, but also enjoying the activities provided?
- Does the center offer many opportunities each day for children to learn through discovery, exploration, and creative expression while building social skills and developing a sense of self.
- Is there a large variety of materials available to the children, including art, science, music, pretend play, etc.

6. Teacher-Child Ratios -

Yes No

- Is there an appropriate number of staff caring for the children in each classroom?

Required teacher-child ratios:

Infants (under 16 months): 1:4
Toddlers (16-23 months): 1:5
Two-Year Olds: 1:8
Three & Four Year Olds: 1:10
School-Age Children: 1:18

7. Parent Involvement -

Yes No

- Are the parents encouraged to visit any time they wish?
- Are the parents involved and informed of their child's learning experience?