

CHILD CARE SUCCESS CHECKLIST

This Child Care Checklist suggests some things to ask as you make phone calls and things to look for during your visit. It will help you remember and compare each situation

	Provider #1	Provider #2	Provider #3
BASIC CONSIDERATIONS			
The location is convenient to get to and from. Transportation is available (if needed)			
There is an opening in my child's age group. If not, when will an opening be available?			
The provider is licensed. The license is for # _____ children.			
The provider has low staff turnover.			
The provider is open during the hours I need care. (Be sure to allow time for travel to and from the provider.) The provider is flexible about drop-off/pick-up times.			
The provider offers financial assistance such as a discount for siblings.			
The provider's fee is \$ _____ per _____.			
The fee includes: meals, diapers, field trip fees, etc.			
The provider communicates daily with families.			
There are opportunities for parents to be involved in activities.			
The provider has an Open Door policy where I may visit whenever I want.			
The provider offers healthy meals and snacks. She has the children brush their teeth.			

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CAREGIVER QUALITIES			
I feel comfortable talking with the caregiver.			
I feel comfortable with the caregiver's cultural beliefs.			
I feel comfortable with the way children's behavior is guided.			
S/he understands and enjoys children my child's age.			
S/he seems confident, relaxed and is warm and caring.			
S/he has a personality my child and I would both enjoy.			
S/he has related early childhood training and experience.			

COMMENTS:	
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PROGRAM AND SPACE			
There is enough space to play freely indoors and outdoors.			
There is a smoke detector, carbon monoxide detector and fire evacuation plan.			
The indoor space is clean and free of hazards such as peeling paint and outlets are covered.			
The outdoor space is clean and free of hazards such as broken glass, poisonous plants.			
All playground equipment is sturdy and in good condition.			
Infant / Toddler			
There are clean/comfortable changing/sleeping spaces separate from cooking/eating areas.			
The play space is warm, soft and comfortable for floor play. My baby will be able to set his/her own schedule for rest and food.			
There are interesting, safe things to handle and look at and spaces to crawl into and explore.			
Preschooler			
I feel comfortable with the type of activities planned (think about the amount of adult direction and the things your child likes to do).			
There is a daily schedule with opportunities for active and quiet play and outdoor playtime.			
The children and caregivers seem interested, busy and relaxed.			
It is clear where toys and materials are kept and children can get things for themselves.			
There are a variety of materials such as books, blocks, puzzles, games, and props for dramatic play and art supplies.			
School-ager			
I feel comfortable with the ages of children my child will play with.			
My child will be carefully supervised, have freedom to choose safe activities, and be able to relax after a day of school.			
There are interesting, fun and challenging activities planned for my child each day.			

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GENERAL IMPRESSIONS			
I am comfortable with the program philosophy (e.g. multicultural, non-sexist, religious).			
I can picture my child playing happily in this situation.			
There is a balance of ages, boys/girls, personalities and ethnic/cultural backgrounds.			
Others have said positive things about this person or center.			

COMMENTS: