

Choosing quality child care and education for your child is a difficult task. Use this checklist to help you ask the right questions when you visit our centers (and others). This information will help you select the best child care program for you and your family!



CURRICULUM

- Is there an educational philosophy that is described to parents?
- Is the curriculum posted and do you see it in action?
- Are there enough materials and toys available and easily accessible by the children in each classroom?
- Are the learning centers, or play areas, well defined in each room?
- Are there a variety of activities for children to choose from?
- Are children encouraged to work alone as well as in small groups?
- Does the program provide a daily schedule that provides a consistent routine for the children?
 - Does the schedule allow for both active and quiet play?
 - Does the schedule provide for plenty of outdoor gross motor play?
- Do the children in the classroom seem engaged, happy, and interested in what they are doing?



STAFF

- Are caregivers trained in first aid and CPR?
- What are the necessary qualifications to be a teacher in the center?
- How frequently is staff training provided?
- Do the teachers interact with children in a caring and respectful way?
- Do the child-to-teacher ratios meet or exceed the state's requirement?
- What is the staff turnover rate?



HEALTH & SAFETY

- Is the center currently licensed?
- What precautions are in place to ensure safety on the playground?
- Do you feel comfortable with the center, the Director, and the teachers?
- Does the facility have an established emergency plan?
- Is the building safe, clean and well-maintained?
- Does the facility have a security system or an entrance protocol for the outside public to gain access?



PROGRAM

- Is there an open-door policy?
- Are parent references available on request?
- Does the center encourage parent involvement?
- What kind of discipline policies are followed?
- Can I drop off early or pick up late?
- Will I be charged if we take a vacation or my child is sick?



MY QUESTIONS
