



Checklist for Selecting Child Care

Make sure your caregiver meets all of your expectations while providing a happy, safe environment for your child. Make multiple copies and use this checklist as you interview potential child care providers.

QUESTIONS	COMMENTS
<i>Evaluate the Policies</i>	
Does the center have a license that meets state regulations?	
Does the care provider have liability insurance?	
Are fire extinguishers inspected regularly and have smoke detectors been installed and tested?	
Does the caregiver have emergency procedures in place?	
Is the center safe (covered outlets, no sharp corners, chemicals out of reach, etc.)?	
Is the center clean? Do staff and children wash their hands regularly and always after diaper changes and before food preparation?	
<i>Evaluate the Care Providers</i>	
How long have the care providers been employed?	
Do the care providers have adequate education, training and proper credentials?	
Do you feel you can trust the care providers?	
Does the staff treat the children as individuals?	
Is the staff involved with the children, or do they just provide basic needs?	
Does the staff show patience with the children?	
Does the care provider have a sense of humor and seem warm and affectionate?	
Is the staff in good physical condition and able to play with the children?	
Do you approve of toilet training procedures and other child-rearing methods?	
Are philosophical or religious beliefs compatible with yours?	
Does the care provider have references from past employers or other parents?	
Does the staff seem open to communication with you?	
Are the staff members friendly and helpful?	
<i>Evaluate the Environment and Program</i>	
Is the atmosphere cheerful and pleasant?	
Are there adequate indoor and outdoor play areas?	
Are toys clean and well maintained?	
Are there enough toys for the number of children?	
Are activities and rest periods scheduled or flexible?	
Are activities creative and interesting?	
Is there a drop-in policy for parents?	
Are there mechanisms for the home/day-care transition and vice versa?	
Can this provider and setting allow personal attention for your child?	
Are there developmentally appropriate activities for your child?	
Are there opportunities for parents to interact with the staff or other parents?	