

Quality Child Care Checklist

Here is a list of questions to consider when evaluating child care for your child. Certain questions may be more or less important to you depending on your priorities for your child's care.

The Setting:

Are the group size and age groupings acceptable? (Ask local experts about the best staff/child ratios)

Is the setting bright, cheerful and attractive?

Do the children seem happy?

Is the setting safe and clean?

Are toys safe, clean, and within reach of children?

Is there a fenced-in outdoor play area with a variety of safe equipment? Can the caregivers/teachers see the entire play area at all times?

Are there different areas for resting, quiet play and active play? Is there enough space for the children in all these areas?

The Caregivers/Program:

Are the caregivers/teachers friendly and supportive?

Have the caregivers/teachers participated in early childhood development classes?

What are their qualifications, experiences, and education?

What are the discipline methods? Do they promote self-discipline?

Do the caregivers promote development of positive self-esteem?

Do the caregivers listen to and respond positively to children and parents?

Are the children greeted when you arrive? Do caregivers/teachers get down on the child's level?

Are the children's needs quickly met even when things get busy?

Are there a variety of age appropriate activities? Are the activities child-centered?

Can the children help plan the activities?

Is there a daily balance of play time, story time, activity time, and nap time?

Will my child get individual attention?

Will my child be able to grow socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually?

Parental Involvement:

Does the program provide written policies?

Are references provided?

Will the caregivers/teachers tell you what your child is doing everyday?

Can parents visit the program and participate in the activities?