



CHOOSING QUALITY CHILD CARE: A Parent's Evaluation Checklist

Caregivers/Teachers

- Do the caregivers/teachers seem to really like children?
- Do the caregivers/teachers get down on each child's level to speak to the child?
- Are children greeted when they arrive?
- Are children's needs quickly met when things get busy?
- Are caregivers/teachers trained in CPR, first aid and early childhood development?
- Are the caregivers/teachers involved in continuing education programs/trainings?
- Does the program keep up with children's changing interests?
- Will the caregiver/teachers always be ready to answer your questions and/or address any concern you might have?
- Will the caregivers/teachers tell you what your child is doing every day?
- Are Parent's ideas welcomed? Are there ways for parents to be involved?
- Do the caregivers/teachers and the children enjoy being together
- Is there enough staff to serve the children? (Ask local experts about the best staff/child ratios for different age groups)
- Are caregivers/teachers trained and experienced?
- Have they participated in early childhood development classes?

Setting

- Is the atmosphere bright and pleasant?
- Is there a fenced-in outdoor play area with a variety of safe equipment? Can the caregivers/teachers see the entire playground area at all times?
- Are there different areas for resting, quiet play and active play? Is there enough space for the children in all of these areas?

Activities

- Is there a daily balance of play time, story time, activity time and nap time? Is there little or no TV viewing?
- Are the activities appropriate for each age group?
- Are there enough toys and learning materials for the number of children?
- Are toys clean, safe and within reach of the children?

In General

- Do you agree with the discipline practices?
- Do you hear the sounds of happy children?
- Are children comforted when needed?
- Is the program licensed or registered by New York State?
- Are surprise visits by parents encouraged?
- Are meals and snacks served?
- Is your child going to be happy here? Does the situation feel right?