

# CHOOSING CHILD CARE

## IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONSIDER

Choosing a child care is one of the most important decisions you will make. There are many things to consider. Below are questions divided into three categories – Teachers and Staff, Program and Facilities you should seek answers while touring each child care center.

**Center Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Teachers and Staff

What levels of education and certification have teachers and staff earned?

Are positive discipline techniques utilized? Is there a written discipline policy?

Do teachers respect each child and treat each child as important?

What are the opportunities for parent-teacher interaction?

When can you visit the center? Are parents allowed to view classrooms any time during the day in person or by internet login viewing?

What are the policies for care for an ill child?

What is the average length of employment at the center for teachers and staff?

Are teachers and staff trained and certified in first aid and CPR?

How does the center communicate with parents – email, phone, website, newsletter?

Does the center provide care for children with special needs or disabilities?

### Program

Is the program accredited by any regional, national or similar organization?

Is the center licensed by the state or other organizations?

Is age appropriate curriculum used in each classroom?

How much time is allowed for play activities indoor and outdoor each day?

Is the curriculum inclusive of cultural, language and learning style differences?

How much time is allowed each day for rest and naps? Are cots or mats used for naps?

Does the program serve nutritious snacks and meals? Is a sample weekly menu available? Does the program participate in the CACFP – Child and Adult Care Food Program? Are accommodations made for special dietary needs?

Is there a written parent's handbook?

## Facility

Is the facility clean, organized, well maintained with on foul odors?

What are the safety, fire and health policies and procedures?

Is the noise level in the lobby, halls and classrooms high or minimal?

Are classrooms well stocked with learning materials, toys, games, technology, and other items that aid in teaching and learning?

Are outdoor play structures sturdy, firmly installed, in good repair and appropriate for age group?

Are separate outdoor play areas available for younger and older children?

Are outdoor play areas large allowing ample room for children, play structures and other toys?

Does there appear to be enough indoor space per child?

Are bathrooms clean and provide age appropriate facilities?

Is a separate space provided for each child's coat, backpack, and other personal items?

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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