

A Day Care Checklist

How To Choose A Program

Choosing a day care program for your child can be a challenge. When selecting a program, visit at a time of day when the children should be active, such as in the morning. Take your child along and don't hesitate to ask questions. Take this checklist as a guide. Don't expect to find everything listed here! Do choose the program with which you feel most comfortable.

Look for:

A Staff

- Treats children with respect, flexibility and patience.
- Is able to meet your child's developmental and emotional needs.
- Is of a sufficient number to meet the needs of children.
- Takes time to discuss your child with you.
- Practices good personal hygiene.
- Has previous experience or training in working with children.

B. Facility

- Safe indoor and outdoor areas and equipment.
- Orderly, clean play areas.
- Airy room with bright colors.
- Sanitary bathrooms and diaper changing areas.

C. Health and Safety

- Comfortable temperatures summer and winter.
- Rounded table corners and other furniture safety features
- Non-toxic play materials.
- First aid kit.
- Healthy snacks and/or meals.
- Clean kitchen area.
- Handwashing after toileting and before meals and snacks.
- Separate cribs for infants and separate cots/mats for others.
- Cleaning materials, medicines out of reach of children.

D. Program

- Proper child-staff ratios.
- Creative play.
- Plenty of play materials.
- Plenty of educational materials.
- Organized program of activities.
- Supervised rest time.
- Minimal, supervised TV if any.
- Stories read.