

E. **General**

- A license or registration certificate from the Pennsylvania Department(s) of Public Welfare and/or Education.
- Rules clearly explained.
- Good behavior encouraged.
- Other parents visiting.
- Children allowed to get dirty naturally through play.
- No children "left out."
- Lots of laughing, caring, sharing.
- HAPPY CHILDREN.

Ask these questions:

- May I drop in anytime?
- May I participate in program planning?
- May I take part in special events and trips?
- What are the hours?
- What are the fees?
- What does this include?
- Is there a reduction in fee if my child is out sick?
- What happens if my child gets sick or injured at the center?
- Are the caregivers trained in child development?
- What are the hiring procedures?
- How long has most staff worked here?
- May I contact staff references?
- Is there a parents' group or program?
- Are there restrictions on who may pick up my child?

Ask yourself:

- Is the center:
- conveniently located?
 - affordable?

- Do I feel:
- comfortable with the caregivers?
 - good watching my child play at this center?
 - that the center is "right" for my child and myself?

Try to:

- Set up a "trial day" when your child can join in activities while you observe.

After your child begins attending:

- Drop in unannounced and visit regularly.
- Leave emergency contact information with the caregiver.
- Set up two or three "back-up plans" in case of your child's or your illness.
- Get involved with your child's day care experience!

The Department of Public Welfare— the state agency that regulates day care facilities — operates regional toll-free hotlines that provide information about day care facilities in the Commonwealth. Day care licensing staff at the numbers listed below will answer questions, investigate complaints and provide further information on day care regulations or on specific day care facilities. Copies of day care regulations may be obtained by calling one of the toll-free numbers listed below:

- Central Region Day Care in Harrisburg 1-800-222-2117**
- Northeast Region Day Care in Scranton 1-800-222-2108**
- Southeast Region Day Care in Philadelphia 1-800-346-2929**
- Western Region Day Care in Pittsburgh 1-800-222-2149**

This checklist was compiled from expert and provider research by:

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