

Questions to Ask in Your Child Care Search

During your child care search, you will talk to and visit child care providers. The following questions will help you gather the information you need to make good child care choices.

- What will my child's daily routine be?
- What types of activities are offered?
- Is the program accredited by a national professional organization?
- What types of qualifications, training, and experience does the caregiver/staff have?
- Who will be my child's primary caregiver? How long has this person been employed in this position?
- What are the program's philosophy and goals for children?
- Is the environment clean and safe?
- Are adequate emergency equipment and procedures in place?
- Is there enough space for all children?
- Are there enough safe, age-appropriate toys and equipment?
- Where do the children store personal belongings?
- Are the children supervised at all times?
- How many children are in a group?
- Is the discipline philosophy similar to my own?
- Are there consistent, age-appropriate limits?
- Are there opportunities for the children to be creative and make choices?
- Does the caregiver join in the activities?
- Are the children comfortable, relaxed, happy, and involved?
- Does the caregiver interact with the children in a friendly, positive manner?
- Do caregivers respect the children's ideas and values?
- Do the providers listen to children's problems and experiences?
- Is personal attention given to each child?

- Can I get daily reports on my child's behavior and development?
- How are parents involved in the program? Can I visit at any time?

Additional questions if you have an infant or toddler:

- Is there a quiet place for my baby to sleep when needed?
- Are feeding and diapering done in a loving, patient manner?
- Are diapers frequently changed and is the changing area clean?
- Do caregivers spend time holding, playing, and talking with each infant?
- Do babies have the space and freedom to play, climb, and crawl?
- Are there acceptable responses to crying infants?

Additional questions if you have a school-aged child:

- How is transportation provided to and from school?
- Do children have freedom and flexibility after a structured school day?
- Do children have space and time to do homework?
- Do providers have an understanding of the child's growing need for independence?