

# Child Care Checklist for Parents

## BASIC INFORMATION

\_\_\_\_\_ The hours suit my schedule

\_\_\_\_\_ I can afford the fees.

\_\_\_\_\_ The program is licensed.

## ENVIRONMENT

\_\_\_\_\_ The place is clean and well-maintained.

\_\_\_\_\_ The setting is well-ventilated, bright, and cheerful.

\_\_\_\_\_ The facility is free of safety hazards.

\_\_\_\_\_ There is the necessary equipment and a plan for emergencies.

\_\_\_\_\_ There is enough equipment and toys which are safe, appropriate, and in reach of the children.

\_\_\_\_\_ There is enough space for all activities (indoor/outdoor play, naptime, diapering, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ The meals and snacks are appetizing and nutritious.

## THE PROVIDER

\_\_\_\_\_ The staff has good training and experience with children.

\_\_\_\_\_ Staff turnover is low/provider is committed to staying in business.

\_\_\_\_\_ If dealing with center care, there are enough teachers to give children individual attention.

\_\_\_\_\_ The provider uses positive reinforcement, sets limits consistently and gently, and gives children choices.

\_\_\_\_\_ The provider and children seem to like each other and the children seem happy.

\_\_\_\_\_ The provider is warm, friendly, patient, and holds the children in a loving and caring manner.

\_\_\_\_\_ The provider plays with, listens to, talks with, and encourages children to express themselves.

- \_\_\_\_\_ The provider understands a child's different developmental stages.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The children are encouraged to learn to get along and respect each other.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The provider responds quickly to children's needs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The provider's child-rearing philosophies are similar to those of the parent's.

**THE PROGRAM**

- \_\_\_\_\_ There is a posted, written schedule that shows a balanced, daily routine; yet, there are active/quiet times, outdoor/indoor times, with varied and age-appropriate activities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ There is a time for children to work as a group and times for children to be alone.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The schedule can be modified to accommodate the children's needs and moods on any given day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Boys and girls are equally encouraged to participate in activities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The values of the program are compatible with the parent's values.

**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Parents can make unannounced visits at any time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parents are involved in the decision-making.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parents can speak with the provider when they drop off and pick up children.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parents meet with the provider on a regular basis.

**FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ References are provided.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parents of other children in the program speak well of it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I would be happy here if I were a child.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I feel comfortable leaving my child here.

**COMMENTS:**