

Components of High Quality Child Care

Most parents know they want quality child care for their children, but they may not know how to recognize quality care. The following are some specific indicators of quality:

SMALL GROUPS

The younger the children, the smaller the groups should be.

GOOD CHILD:STAFF RATIOS

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) recommends the following child:staff ratios in a child care center:

<i>Age</i>	<i>Child:Staff</i>
0-12 months	3:1
12-24 months	3:1
2-3 years	5:1
3-4 years	7:1
4-5 years	8:1
5 years and up	10:1

APPROPRIATE EXPECTATIONS

Adult expectations should vary appropriately for children of differing ages and interests.

EQUAL EMPHASIS TO ALL AREAS OF A CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT

Good programs help children learn colors, shapes, and numbers. They help children *learn how to learn*; discover through play; to make choices; to get along with others; and to use language, thinking, and motor skills.

KNOWLEDGEABLE PROVIDERS WHO PARTICIPATE IN ONGOING TRAINING

GOOD SUPPORT AND SUPERVISION OF STAFF

RESPONSIVENESS TO PARENT NEEDS

In quality programs, caregivers establish close and caring communications with the parents. Parents are encouraged to visit and get involved in decision making.

AWARENESS OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH, SAFETY, AND NUTRITION NEEDS

Licensed facilities must abide by requirements to protect children's health, safety, and nutrition.