



Child Care Choices

MAKING THE CONNECTION TO QUALITY CHILD CARE

You have the power and the privilege to choose who will care for your child and it is your responsibility to choose wisely. CCCC does not make recommendations for any specific child care program, but rather, provides consumer information on how to choose a child care program that best fits your needs.

Parents must consider many factors when choosing child care and it can be an overwhelming task. Our referral counselors are here to help so do not hesitate to call (661-861-5200). Remember, no one knows your child better than you do. If you take your time, visit several programs, use this checklist, check references, and listen to your intuition, you will have taken all the right steps toward choosing wisely.

ABOUT THIS CHECKLIST

CCCC is a member of the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA). This checklist was adapted from a guide developed by NACCRRA to help parents choose high quality child care. This checklist is based on research on what is important to children's health, safety and development. To view the entire report with explanations about the importance of each indicator go to the CCCC web site www.kernchildcare.org.



IS THIS THE RIGHT PLACE FOR MY CHILD?

Will my child be supervised?

1. Are children watched at all times including when they are sleeping?
2. Are adults warm and welcoming? Do they pay individual attention to each child?
3. Are positive guidance techniques used?
4. Do adults avoid yelling and other negative punishments?

Do the caregiver/teacher-to-child ratios meet licensing regulations?

0 - 2 years of age 1:4

3 - 5 years of age 1:12

school age 1:14

Have the adults been trained to care for children?

1. Do the teachers and director's have college classes in Child Development?
2. Has a family child care provider attended workshops on Child Development?
3. Ask if any of the staff have degrees in child development.
4. Is there always someone present who has current CPR/First Aid Training?
5. Are the adults continuing to receive training on caring for children?

Have the adults been trained on child abuse prevention and their responsibility as a mandated reporter?

Will my child be able to grow and learn?

1. Are there specific areas for different kinds of play (books, blocks, puzzles, art etc)?
2. Is the play space organized and are materials easy to use? Are some materials available at all times?
3. Are weekly activity plans available? Have the adults planned experiences the children will enjoy and learn from?
4. Do adults talk with children during the day? Do they engage them in conversations?

Do the adults read to children at least twice a day?

Is this a safe and healthy place for my child?

1. Do the adults and children wash their hands (after toileting, changing diapers, eating etc)?
 2. Are diapering surfaces cleaned and disinfected after each use?
 3. Do all of the children enrolled have the required immunizations?
 4. Are medicines labeled and kept out of children's reach?
 5. What is the procedure for giving medications and keeping records of medications?
 6. Are cleaning supplies and other poisons locked up and out of children's reach?
 7. Is there a plan to follow if children are sick, injured or lost?
 8. Are first aid kits readily available?
 9. Is there a plan for responding to disasters (fire, earthquake etc)?
 10. Have all adults had their fingerprints taken for a criminal background check?
 11. Is the outdoor play area a safe place for children to play? Is it checked for hazards at the beginning of each day?
 12. Is the fencing that surrounds the yard safe and in good repair?
 13. Is the play equipment in good condition?
- Is climbing equipment placed on mulch, sand, or rubber matting?

Other things to consider about a child care program.

1. Are parents asked to evaluate the program?
2. Will I be welcome any time my child is in care (licensing requires this)?
3. Will I be given a copy of the program policies?
4. If I have concerns with whom should I discuss them?
5. Does the program have any kind of accreditation?



661-861-5255