Is This the Right Place for My Child? (Make a copy of this checklist to use with each program you visit.)



Place	e a check in the box if the program meets your expectations.	Notes:
Will	my child be supervised?	
	Are children watched at all times, including when they are sleeping? 15	
	Are adults warm and welcoming? Do they pay individual attention to each child? ⁴⁰	
	Are positive guidance techniques used? Do adults avoid yelling, spanking, and other negative punishments? ¹⁶	
	Are the caregiver/teacher-to-child ratios appropriate and do they follow the recommended guidelines:	
	One caregiver per 3 or 4 infants	
	One caregiver per 3 or 4 young toddlers	
	One caregiver per 4 to 6 older toddlers	
	► One caregiver per 6 to 9 preschoolers ¹⁹	
Have	the adults been trained to care for children?	
	If a center:	
	▶ Does the director have a degree and some experience in caring for children? ^{27/28/29}	
	▶ Do the teachers have a credential*** or Associate's degree and experience in car- ing for children? ^{27/28/29}	
	If a family child care home:	
	Has the provider had specific training on children's development and experience caring for children? ³⁰	
	Is there always someone present who has current CPR and first aid training? ³²	
	Are the adults continuing to receive training on caring for children? ³³	
	Have the adults been trained on child abuse prevention and how to report suspected cases? ^{12/13}	
Will	my child be able to grow and learn?	
	For older children, are there specific areas for different kinds of play (books, blocks, puzzles, art, etc.)? ²¹	
	For infants and toddlers, are there toys that "do something" when the child plays with them? ⁴¹	
	Is the play space organized and are materials easy-to-use? Are some materials available at all times? ²¹	
	Are there daily or weekly activity plans available? Have the adults planned experiences for the children to enjoy? Will the activities help children learn? ²²	
	Do the adults talk with the children during the day? Do they engage them in conversations? Ask questions, when appropriate? ⁴³	
	Do the adults read to children at least twice a day or encourage them to read, if they can read? ⁴³	
ls th	is a safe and healthy place for my child?	
	Do adults and children wash their hands (before eating or handling food, or after using the bathroom, changing diapers, touching body fluids or eating, etc.)? ⁴	
	Are diaper changing surfaces cleaned and sanitized after each use? ⁵	
	Do all of the children enrolled have the required immunizations? ⁶	
	Are medicines labeled and out of children's reach? ⁷	
	Are adults trained to give medicines and keep records of medications? ⁷	
<u> </u>	Are surfaces used to serve food cleaned and sanitized?	
	Are the food and beverages served to children nutritious, and are they stored,	
<u> </u>	prepared, and served in the right way to keep children growing and healthy?	·
	Are cleaning supplies and other poisonous materials locked up, out of children's reach? ⁸	
	Is there a plan to follow if a child is injured, sick or lost?9	

irst a	id kits readily available? ¹⁰	
there a	plan for responding to disasters (fire, flood, etc.)?"	—
Has a sati adult pres	sfactory criminal history background check been conducted on each ent?	
► Was the	e check based on fingerprints? ¹⁴	
Have all th screenings	ne adults who are left alone with children had background and criminal $\mathbf{\widehat{7}^{13}}$	
In a center	** *	
Are two	o adults with each group of children most of the time?	
In a home:		
Are fan	nily members left alone with children only in emergencies?	
Is the outo	door play area a safe place for children to play? ³⁹	
► Is it che	ecked each morning for hazards before children use it?23	
	equipment the right size and type for the age of the children who use it? ²⁴	
	er-based programs, is the playground area surrounded by a fence at least	
4 feet t		—
▶ Is the e	equipment placed on mulch, sand, or rubber matting? ²³	
	equipment placed on match, sale, or rabber matching.	
 In famil 6-8 ir 6-12 y 8-12 c 	/ounger toddlers older toddlers	
	preschoolers school-agers ²⁰	
	n set up to promote quality?	
	program have the highest level of licensing offered by the state? ⁴²	
	written personnel policies and job descriptions? ¹⁷	
Are parent	ts and staff asked to evaluate the program? ³⁷	
Are staff e	evaluated each year; do providers do a self-assessment? ¹⁸	
Is there a	written annual training plan for staff professional development?33	
Is the prog	gram evaluated each year by someone outside the program? ³⁸	
Is the prog	gram accredited by a national organization? ³⁶	
the prog	ram work with parents?	
	elcome any time my child is in care?1	
ls parents'	feedback sought and used in making program improvements? ¹	
	iven a copy of the program's policies? ²	
	Il conferences held with parents? ³	

These questions are based on research about child care; you can read the research findings on the NACCRRA website under "Questions for Parents to Ask" at http://www.naccrra.org. Research-based indicators can only describe quality. Parents should base their decisions on actual observations.

- * These are the adult-to-child ratios and group sizes recommended by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Ratios are lowered when there are one or more children who may need additional help to fully participate in a program due to a disability, or other factors.
- ** Group sizes are considered the maximum number of children to be in a group, regardless of the number of adult staff.

*** Individuals working in child care can earn a Child Development Associate credential.

For help finding child care in your area, contact Child Care Aware, a Program of NACCRRA at 1-800-424-2246 or www.childcareaware.org.

For information about other AAP publications visit: www.aap.org

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