

CHILD CARE CHECKLIST



KIDS FIRST

CHILDCARE RESOURCE CENTER

Take this page with you when you visit programs – use one column for each program to remember and compare information.

General:

- Is the program licensed? For how many children?
- Is the license posted along with the last inspection? If not, ask to see both.
- How many children are enrolled? What are their ages?
- Count – what is the ratio of children to caregivers?
- Is there a contract or written policies?
- What are the vacation and sick day policies, schedule?
- What is the total cost, including all fees?

The Caregivers:

- What type of training's do the caregivers have? Are they involved in continuing education programs?
- Are the caregivers trained in First Aid and CPR?
- Are provisions made when caregivers are ill or absent?
- Do the caregivers appear to genuinely enjoy interacting with the children?
- Do the caregivers talk to children at their eye level and play on the floor with them?
- Do the caregivers listen attentively to the children and talk with them in a positive manner?
- Are the children's needs met quickly, even when things are busy?
- Do you agree with the discipline used ?

The Setting:

- Is the environment clean, safe and smoke free?
- Is there enough space indoors and out for a variety of activities?
- Are a variety of activities available for the children at their eye level?
- Is the atmosphere bright and cheerful?
- Are there areas for both quiet and active pursuits?
- Is the outdoor play space fenced and completely visible to the caregiver/s?
- Do children seem happy and content?

Activities/Program:

- Are there appropriate activities for each age group?
- Are there safe, clean toys and learning materials for each age group within the children's reach?
- How is the day planned? Are there scheduled times for certain activities throughout the day?
- Is there a balance of active and quiet experiences?

Parent's Role:

- How are parents encouraged to be involved?
- How is communication maintained between parents and caregivers?
- Are parents' concerns respected?
- Do you feel good about leaving your child there?