

CHILD CARE CHECKLIST

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE CLASSROOM:

- Is the classroom clean?
- Is there enough floor space for infants to crawl and explore?
- Are the ratios of teachers to children in a classroom close to the recommended standards? (see chart below)
- Are the tables, chairs, and bookshelves short enough for the children?
- Are posters and pictures hanging at your child's eye level?
- Is the classroom open and easy for children to be seen by the teacher? This ensures that the teachers can always see your child and make sure that your child is not at risk for injury or participating in unsafe activities.
- Do you see activities that are both academic (numbers, letters, and books), developmental (puzzles and blocks), and creative (paints and crayons)?
- Is the child's sleep area safe and calm?
- Do they offer time for the children to be outside every day?

RECOMMENDED TEACHER-TO-CHILD RATIO, ACCORDING TO NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN:

AGE	MAXIMUM TEACHER-TO-CHILD	MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE
Infant - 0 to 15 months	1 teacher for every 4 children	8 children
Toddler - 12 to 28 months	1 teacher for every 4 children	12 children
Toddler - 21 to 36 months	1 teacher for every 6 children	12 children
2.5 to 4 years	1 teacher for every 9 children	18 children
4 to 5 years	1 teacher for every 10 children	20 children

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE PROGRAM:

- Do the teachers follow a curriculum?
- Are infants' activities based on the needs of the child (napping, meals, or play time)?
- Is music ever played?
- Are there different types of age-appropriate toys?
- Are there goals set for each child?
- Do teachers encourage the children to try things on their own?
- Are there opportunities for the child to work both in groups and individually?
- Are the children read to by adults?
- Is there a daily lesson plan posted in the room that includes planned activities?

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN A HEALTHY AND SAFE SPACE:

- Do they offer healthy snacks that are limited in sugar?
- Are menus posted for parents?
- Are food, drinks, and medicines labeled with the child's name and date, and stored in a safe place?
- Are the toys cleaned daily or as needed?
- Are the bathrooms clean and easily available to the children?
- Are there fire drills?
- Are there working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors?
- Are there safety gates?
- How often do the teachers wash their hands?
- Are children taught proper hand-washing?
- Is there a teacher trained in CPR?
- Is there a first aid kit?
- How do the teachers handle potty training?
- What happens when a child is bitten by another child?
- Do the teachers have paid sick days?

