

Choosing Quality Child Care Checklist

PROVIDER/TEACHER

- ☐ Provider talks to children at eye-level.
- ☐ Provider responds to a hurt or unhappy child.
- ☐ Provider has received at least a minimum of 10 hours of training annually (suggested minimum: 20 hours).
- ☐ Provider has a high school diploma or CDA (Child Development Associate) or higher degree.
- ☐ Provider has relevant early childhood experience.
- ☐ Staff turnover is low. The same provider remains with the child for most of the year.

FIELD TRIPS AND TRANSPORTATION

- ☐ Field trips are part of the program.
- ☐ Transportation is safe.
- ☐ Every vehicle has a first aid kit, fire extinguisher and emergency contact information.

YOUR FEELINGS

- ☐ Children appear to be enjoying themselves.
- ☐ The provider is sensitive to yours and others' cultural beliefs.
- ☐ The environment exposes children to diversity.

YOUR INVOLVEMENT

- ☐ There are opportunities for you to be involved in activities.

- ☐ Regular parent meetings are offered.
- ☐ You are given a copy of the program's policies.
- ☐ You are welcome any time a child is in care

INSIDE ENVIRONMENT

- ☐ You feel comfortable with the cleanliness of the center or home.
- ☐ The indoor play area is free of hazards (uncovered outlets, chipping paint, hazardous chemicals and cleaners, dangling cords, etc).
- ☐ The setting is sanitary, attractive and well-lit.
- ☐ Sufficient safety measures are taken in the center or the home, such as vents and fireplaces being screened.
- ☐ There is a fire extinguisher, smoke detector and a fire evacuation plan.

OUTSIDE ENVIRONMENT

- ☐ The outdoor play area is free of hazards such as glass, poison ivy, etc.
- ☐ The ground is covered sufficiently with enough surfacing to decrease serious injuries.
- ☐ Children are dressed appropriately for cold and warm weather.
- ☐ All playground equipment is in good condition.
- ☐ The family child care provider has a safe outside area nearby to take the children to play if he or she does not have a yard.

Ultimately selecting a child care program is a very personal decision. QCC offers options that fit parents' search criteria, not recommendations.

Referrals for GA child care are available by calling 877-ALL-GA-KIDS (877-255-4254) or in Atlanta 404-479-4240 Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., searching the 24-hour [Online Child Care Search](#).

Our 877-All-GA-KIDS is a free and confidential service. Parents can also get information on choosing quality care and local resources on topics including child care financial assistance (subsidy), Pre-K Georgia, Head Start, family counseling, Department of Family and Children's Services, and more.