

Choosing Quality Child Care Checklist

The care you select for your child is one of the biggest decisions you'll ever make. When looking for child care consider the following points to find the best quality. The choice you make should support your family's needs and your child's development. If you have any questions feel free to call Stepping Stones Child Care Resource and Referral Agency at 299-317-6868/866-833-3552.



Overview

- Is the facility licensed/registered by the state? Y/N
- Is it convenient to home and/or work? Y/N
- Does the schedule and hours of operation fit our needs? Y/N
- How much does it cost? \$_____ / week Is the cost within your budget? Y/N
- Is there a written parent handbook? Y/N

Group Size / Ratios

There will be at total of _____ children in the classroom/home, including my child.

How many caregivers will work with my child's group?

Note: The lower the ratio of caregivers to children (i.e. 1 caregiver per 3 infants vs. 1 caregiver per 5 infants) the more individualized attention your child will receive.

Caregiver Training/Professional Development

Do the caregivers seem to be warm, friendly, calm and patient? Y/N

Do the caregivers have experience and training in working with young children? Y/N

What are the training requirements for staff members?

Are all staff certified in Infant CPR & First Aid? Y/N

Are all staff trained in child development? Y/N

Are all staff trained in recognizing signs of child abuse? Y/N

Are all staff trained in preventing infectious illness and injury? Y/N

Does the center have rules about careful and frequent hand-washing? This is key to reduce the spread of illness among children. All staff must wash their hands each time they diaper a child and before fixing meals or snacks. Y/N

Family Involvement

Are parents invited to visit the program? Does the facility allow unannounced visits? Y/N

Do the caregivers provide the parents with daily updates on the child's day? Y/N

Are parent meetings/conferences held? Y/N

Do the caregivers seem available for discussion and questions? Y/N

Health & Safety

Are there first aid kits and fire extinguishers available? Y/N

Do you see emergency numbers posted near an accessible telephone? Y/N

Are there any noticeable safety hazards? (i.e. electrical outlets without safety covers) Y/N

Do all of the caregiving areas appear clean? Y/N

Are nutritious meals and snacks served? Y/N

Does the playground have impact-absorbing surfaces, such as wood chips? Y/N