

## Choosing Quality Child Care Checklist



Bring this checklist with you when you visit potential child care providers. When you are prepared with the right questions it is easier to interview and select the right provider for your family.

<p>At Child Care Solutions, we believe that you are the best person to choose a child care setting that will best meet the needs of your child. Choosing care can be a difficult. It is important to carefully evaluate the program or family child care provider. We strongly suggest that you visit as many programs as possible. This will allow you to explore and compare the many options available. The following is a guide you may use while visiting and evaluating the child care setting.</p> <p><i>Child Care Solutions referral service does not give recommendations, endorse or inspect any programs or providers listed for referral purposes.</i></p>	Caregivers' Names				
	1	2	3	4	5
<b>HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</b>					
Does the site have working smoke detectors and fire extinguishers?					
Is there an emergency/evacuation plan and are practice drills done with the children?					
Is the site child proof: electrical outlets covered, stairways protected, poisons kept away from children, guns locked in cabinets?					
Is there a working phone at the site? Are emergency numbers posted?					
Is the furniture and equipment safe and in good condition?					
Are there first aid supplies available on site?					
Does the site have a bathroom/wash area that is accessible to children?					
Is the environment clean? (especially eating, diapering and bathroom areas)					
Are good health habits such as washing hands before eating, after toileting or outside play practiced?					
Are infants laid on their backs to sleep?					
Is at least one care giver on site certified in medication administration, CPR, & First Aid?					
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>					
Does the site have a safe place for infants to crawl and explore?					
Is there space indoors for active play and outdoors for running, jumping, and climbing?					

Does the site have separate spaces for quiet times like doing homework or naptime?					
Does the site have a space that is clean, bright and child friendly?					
Are there equipment and supplies on site to accommodate the needs of various ages: <i>blocks, books, games, toys, creative art materials</i> ?					
Are children allowed to choose activities based on their own interests and abilities?					
Is reading to the children part of the daily activities? Do children watch TV? How much and what?					
<b>CAREGIVER</b>					
Are there enough adults for the group size and ages of children?					
Does the caregiver attend trainings related to health and safety & child development?					
Does the caregiver provide individual attention to each child?					
Does the caregiver get down to the level of the children and engage in activities?					
Does the caregiver appear to be warm, loving, and nurturing?					
<b>POLICIES, PROCEDURES, &amp; HANDBOOK</b>					
Is there a contract or handbook that explains the caregiver's policies & procedures?					
What are the program's various fees, hours of operation, holiday & vacation schedule, and attendance policy?					
How are behavior issues and discipline handled?					
Is toilet training discussed? What about feeding & sleeping schedules?					
Are nutritious meals provided? Does the provider participate in the CACFP food program?					
Are children transported for any reason? Who provides the car seats? Is there a written permission form?					
Are parents allowed to visit at any time?					
Are references provided?					
Will the program/provider share information regarding your child with you on a regular basis? And How?					

