

Choosing Quality Child Care Questionnaire

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Nothing is more sobering than leaving your child in the care of others. Child care choice is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly. To help you choose the right care for your family, it is recommended to visit at least three child care programs while reviewing the questionnaire before making a final decision.

The care you choose for your family has to fit and feel right!
Choosing child care is a heart issue and an emotional purchase. It must feel right.

Center Appearance

1. When you first pulled into the parking lot—what was your impression?
 - o Was there good signage? Was the property free from debris?
2. When you first step into the program, what did you smell? Hear? See?
 - o Was there a parent bulletin board?
 - o Did you see the Mission, Philosophy and Values posted?
3. When you visited the playground – was it large enough for running and free play? Fenced? Well equipped? Safe? Free of broken toys and clutter?
 - o Was a Lunch and Snack Menu posted?
 - o Did you hear happy sounds? Laughter? Or did you hear harsh tones, loud voices, and sharp directions?

Staff Friendliness and Qualifications

1. Did a staff member greet you warmly and encouraged your visit?
 - o Was the staff professionally dressed and easily identifiable?
 - o Did each staff person greet you with a smile and a welcoming hello?
2. Is all staff required to have a Criminal Record check?
3. What is the child to staff ratios for each age group?
4. What are the requirements of teachers to work in the program?
5. If faith-based, what Christian Principles are taught?
 - o How are values incorporated into the program?
 - o How does staff model and teach character development?
6. How much child development staff training required annually?
7. What is the Director's education and experience?
8. How long has the Director been leading the program?
9. Are all the staff first- aid and CPR certified?

Classroom Management

1. Did you see the children's artwork neatly displayed?
2. Did the staff appear friendly and were happy to show off their rooms?
3. Did the classrooms have a warm, welcoming, active, and evident that children were learning atmosphere?
 - o Did the classrooms appear to have enough equipment, toys, and supplies?
4. Does the program have an "open door" policy, where parents can observe the classroom without an appointment?
5. What happens when there is a discipline problem in the classroom?
 - o What type of discipline is used?
6. What curriculum does the program use?
7. How much time do children get to play outside?
8. How are parents communicated with?
9. What time do the morning activities begin?
 - o When is breakfast served?
10. Do children go on field trips?

Health and Safety

1. Did you receive the Health and Safety policies and procedures?
2. How important is being state licensed or accredited?
3. What happens if your child becomes ill or is injured at the center?
4. If a child has a communicable illness – what is the policy to return to the program?
5. Is there an area for sick children to wait for parents?
6. How are toilet accidents handled?
7. How are medicines given at the program?
8. Does the program allow parents to bring Sunscreen?
9. How is food allergies handled?
10. What are the security procedures to keep children safe?
11. How are cleaning products stored and kept away from children?
12. How are strangers identified?
13. Are Fire drills done each month?

Cost of Care

1. What are full-time fees and part-time fees?
2. What do fees include?
3. What is the registration fee?
4. Are there any additional fees?
5. Do rates change if a child is absent for illness or vacation?

General Administrative Questions

1. What is the enrollment process?
2. What ages does the program accept?
3. What type of child care suits my family?
 - o Family Day Care Home, Church Based Program, Center Based Program?
 - o What are the differences in the types of care?
4. Where are children's files kept?
5. Has the program ever had Legal suits against them?
6. What is the programs' Website address?
7. Does the center provide parent references?
8. When is the program closed for holidays? Or inclement weather?
9. How does a parent dis-enroll a child?
10. What happens if I am late picking up my child?
11. Do you have a waiting list?
12. Does the program have Liability insurance?

Our Family's Care Choice:
