



# Checklist for Parents

## BASIC INFORMATION

- The hours of operation fit my needs
- I can afford the fees
- The program is licensed

## ENVIRONMENT

- The place is clean and well-maintained
- The setting is bright, cheerful, and smells okay
- The facility is safe. (Areas are easy to supervise, hazardous cleaning materials are out of reach, electrical outlets are covered, furniture is sturdy, etc.)
- There is a plan for emergencies and first aid kits are readily available.
- There is enough space for a variety of activities (indoor/outdoor, nap, diapering, eating, etc.)
- There is a place for children's personal belongings

## ENVIRONMENT

- Teaching staff has adequate training and experience with children
- There are enough teachers to give individual attention and cover when absences/illnesses occur
- Positive behavior management techniques are used (HINT: Limits are consistent and gentle. Children are given choices.)
- The teacher and children seem to like each other and be happy
- The teacher is warm, friendly, and patient
- The teacher offers appropriate physical comfort in a loving, caring way. (e.g. holding young children, hugs, holding hands, etc.)
- The teacher is actively involved with the children throughout the day
- The teacher understands what is developmentally appropriate for children of different ages.
- The teacher responds quickly to children's needs.

CONTINUED 

## PROGRAM

- There is a written daily schedule posted that shows a balanced daily routine. There are active/quiet times, indoor/outdoor times, and varied age-appropriate activities.
- There are times when children work as a group and times when they can be alone.
- The schedule can be adjusted as needed to accommodate the children's needs and moods.
- Boys and girls are equally encouraged to participate in a variety of activities.
- The number of teachers in each group allow for personal attention to be given to each child.

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

- Parents can make unannounced visits at any time
- Parents can speak with the provider when they have questions or concerns
- There is a system of regular communication sent home to inform the parents about the child's experiences during child care
- Parents meet with the provider on a regular basis to discuss progress and goals

## INFANT/TODDLER CONSIDERATIONS

- There are quiet individualized places for children to sleep when needed
- Feeding and diapering routines are done in a loving, patient manner
- Diapers are frequently checked and changed
- Diapering area is clean
- Babies have space and freedom to play, climb, and crawl
- Teaching staff responds quickly and appropriately to crying

## SCHOOL-AGE CONSIDERATIONS

- I am comfortable with the transportation arrangements to and from school
- There is quiet space and time allotted for homework
- There is freedom and flexibility after a structured school day

## FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

- References from parents are available
- I would be happy here if I were a child
- I feel comfortable leaving my child here

## ADDITIONAL NOTES: