

Child Care Visit Checklist

<http://www.childcarenet.org/families/your-search>

Print this list and take it with you when you visit a child care provider

Name of Program: _____

Hours of Operation: _____

Group Size / Age Range: _____

Basic Information:

- The program is licensed.
- The building is safe, clean, and well maintained.
- The setting is bright and cheerful.
- The children seem happy.

Physical Space and Safety:

- There is enough indoor space for children to move freely, with areas for active play and quiet play.
- There is an outdoor space, safely enclosed and easily supervised, where the children can run and play.
- There is an alternative exit, in case of fire.
- There is a fire alarm system, enough smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.
- The provider has a safety plan so the children can be removed from the building quickly in case of emergency.
- There are window guards, gates at the stairs, covers on radiators, and safety caps on electrical outlets.
- All cleaning supplies and hazardous items are safely stored.
- A clean, safe place is set up for changing diapers.
- A space can be made dark and quiet whenever a child needs to nap.
- Cribs have firm mattresses with heavy plastic covers.
- The temperature is comfortable, the air circulation is good and the space is kept free of cigarette smoke.

Parent Involvement:

- The staff seems interested in speaking with parents when they drop off and pick up their children.
- There are regular parent / teacher conferences and parent meetings.
- Parents are welcome to visit the home / center at any time.

The Staff:

- The director is accessible and responsive.
- There are enough adults to give the children individual attention.
- The staff speak with the children as they play, diaper, and feed them.
- Adults seem to enjoy holding and cuddling the children.
- Staff members are alert to the need for cleanliness and hand-washing.
- Adults get children to do things by encouragement, suggestions, or in offering choices rather than by reprimand or commands.
- Discipline is handled sensitively and appropriately.
- The children are allowed to express their feelings.
- The staff members are responsive when a child needs comforting.

The Program:

- Daily activities are varied, well-balanced (active and quiet) and geared to short attention spans.
- There are enough play materials within easy access for the children to keep busy and involved.
- Girls and boys are equally encouraged to participate in the various activities.
- The play materials help develop motor skills and a sense of touch, sight, and hearing. Look for:

Soft Toys

Picture Books

Building Blocks

Riding Toys

Art Materials

Climbing Equipment

Musical Toys