

Choosing Child Care Checklist

The early years in a child's life are viewed as the beginning stages of lifelong learning. A child's earliest experiences and interaction with adults and other children play a key role in a child's development.

Caring, competent caregivers play an important role in promoting the social, physical, emotional and cognitive development of children.

When choosing a child care provider, consider the following:

Does the early childhood educator or home provider

- foster caring relationships to create a sense of belonging between children, adults, and the community through positive and consistent interactions?
- Show flexibility in meeting the different needs of all the children and their families?
- nurture children's healthy development?
- Listen to children, and respond with interest and respect?
- encourage choice, independence and relationship building and problem-solving?
- have a current First Aid/CPR certificate and experience as an early childhood care provider?

Does the Program

- offer a variety of activities to meet the needs of all children, including cultural needs?
- provide a flexible schedule with a mix of indoor and outdoor time and a rest period?
- offer nutritious meals and snacks, that accommodate all cultural and health needs?
- accommodate for health or special needs of the children?
- encourage children to take part in age-appropriate life skills such as washing hands, dressing routines?
- foster social and emotional well-being in children and support communication and expression in all forms?
- provide clear expectations about administrative matters such as hours of operation, sick and medication policies, payment schedule?

Does the Physical Environment offer

- experiences for children to be active, creative, and engage in meaningful exploration, play, and inquiry?
- a designated space for the child's belongings?
- a soft and cozy space as well as areas that invite active and messy play?
- both indoor and outdoor environments that are clean, accessible and safe?
- an indoor play space comfortable, bright and warm?
- precautions and safety measures for any pets?
- an area for children's work to be displayed?

