

A checklist for choosing a quality child care program.



Research is now available that can help parents make a better child care choice for their children. When you visit a child care program, find out the answers to the questions below.

Use this checklist as a guide in comparing programs. If you can answer **yes** to most or all of these questions, then your child will have a greater chance of having a successful child care experience.

Child Care Center Checklist

- yes* *no* Do child care teachers have credentials and degrees in early childhood education or child development?
- yes* *no* Are child care teachers who do not have credentials or degrees taking college courses to earn them?
- yes* *no* Are there low child/teacher ratios so that children can receive lots of individual attention all day?
- yes* *no* Is the child care center director an experienced child care administrator with formal education in early childhood education and child care administration?
- yes* *no* Does the child care center have low turnover of teachers, less than 20% each year?
- yes* *no* Does the center meet higher than minimal licensure standards by either having a 3 to 5-star rated license or a national accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)?
- yes* *no* Are the teachers well paid and receiving benefits?
- yes* *no* Do parents have an opportunity to be involved in the center as volunteers in the classroom and on an advisory committee or board?
- yes* *no* Do teachers wash their hands often and help the children wash their hands?
- yes* *no* Are there lots of materials and activities, such as blocks, puzzles and art supplies available for the children to explore all day long?



Child Care Services Association is always here to help! As you search for quality child care, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, or if you would like assistance finding a child care program that meets your family's needs.

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Our easy-to-use web site offers a wealth of information:

www.childcareservices.org