



SEARCHING FOR QUALITY CHILDCARE

It is important to know which questions to ask when searching for quality child care. Finding a program that you feel comfortable with takes time and effort. It is generally recommended that you begin your search at least 6 months prior to when you need to begin childcare.

Here are some questions to ask when searching for the right environment for you and your child.

- What are your general childcare policies? Ask for a written copy.
- How do you promote safety, health, and wellness? What policies are in place for hand washing, sanitization, and sick-care?
- What systems are in place to enforce a secure environment?
- What are the current staff credentials and how is their on-going training supported? How often does staff turnover occur?
- What are staff/child ratios? What is maximum class or group size?
- What is a typical daily schedule? Is there a balance of active vs. quiet play? Is outdoor play scheduled? When are naps scheduled and where do the children sleep? When are meals? Ask for an example menu.
- What is your educational philosophy?
- What role does television, DVD's or computer games play during the day, if any?
- How are children's individual needs met? How are children comforted when distressed?
- What types of discipline are used?
- What methods of communication with parents are in place? Is there an open-door policy stating you can visit anytime?
- Does the Department of Human Service license the facility? Does the National Association accredit the facility for the Education of Young Children?
- Finally ask for current and prior client references. These can be an important resource during your search.

