

# CHILD CARE CHECKLIST

Program name:

Address/Phone:

Dates of visits:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

(At least one visit should be unannounced)

## Does the program meet my needs?

The hours are suitable	Yes	No
The fees are within my budget	Yes	No
The location is convenient	Yes	No
The philosophy and values are what I want for my child	Yes	No

## The caregiver:

Is warm and friendly	Yes	No
Listens and talks to children, down at child's eye level	Yes	No
Enjoys children	Yes	No
Is trained and experienced working with children: <i>How long have they been working with children? How do they receive their training hours?</i>	Yes	No
Is committed and happy working with children	Yes	No

## The children are:

Busy, active, and happy	Yes	No
Comfortable with caregivers	Yes	No
Excited about learning	Yes	No

## The place is:

Colorful and organized	Yes	No
Safe, clean, orderly	Yes	No
Spacious, with room for indoor and outdoor play: <i>for all ages, including infants</i>	Yes	No
Child-oriented: child-size furniture and pictures hung at <u>child's</u> level	Yes	No

## Also consider . . .

Other parents speak well of the program. *Try to get 3 references: one from a family that has just started in the program, one from a family that has been there for awhile, and one from a family that has left the program.*

The program and the activities are appropriate for my child

Discipline methods are appropriate and acceptable

There are enough toys and materials to interest my child and to encourage Learning. Screen time is limited.

Do you feel welcome and comfortable talking with the caregivers?

The daily schedule allows for quiet and active play, indoor and outdoor

The group size is small. *The smaller the group, the more one on one time your child will receive*

Children are treated as individuals  
Is the center participating in the Texas Rising Star Program?

## And finally . . .

If I were a child, I would be happy here

I think my child will be happy here

I feel comfortable leaving my child

**Trust your instincts.**

# Six Things Caregivers Wish Parents Would Do

As parents, you shop for child care like you would shop for a good doctor. You want service that is high quality, affordable and convenient.

But it's also important to look at child care from the provider's point of view. Both the attitude of the provider and parent can affect the harmony and strength of the relationship, as well as the care the children receive.

Providers wish parents would do the following:

## **1. Respect caregivers and teachers as professionals.**

Caregivers are not babysitters. Most have experience and training in caring for children, and they continue their training every year. Many belong to professional education organizations and stay informed about research in early care and education.

## **2. Understand that child care is a business.**

Many providers ask parents to sign a contract indicating agreement about hours, fees and rules. They expect parents/customers to pay fees on time and to pay extra whenever a parent is late picking up a child. Caregivers love children, but they don't work for free.

## **3. Leave domestic quarrels at home.**

Caregivers and teachers are not referees or counselors. They don't want to be in the middle of Mom and Dad's spats. If a court order has specified custody arrangements, the caregiver needs a copy to know who may pick up the child.

## **4. Remember that accidents can happen.**

Caregivers keep safety in mind when organizing a room, planning activities, selecting materials, and supervising children outdoors. Active children are bound to get a few scrapes and bruises, just as they would at home.

## **5. Abide by the rules.**

Caregivers are not nurses; they don't care for sick children unless the facility offers that service. They set rules about snacks and meals out of concern for children's optimal growth and development, allergies and obesity prevention.

## **6. Show courtesy.**

Caregivers are not maids; they don't do children's laundry. Their home or school deserves to be treated as a family's home or other property with regard to muddy shoes, trash and toys. If you need to cancel an interview with the potential caregiver, please contact them ASAP. And finally, like most people, caregivers appreciate an occasional heartfelt thank-you for they work they do.



512-597-7191

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