

# Infant Daycare Checklist

By Laura Cooper Peterson

- Finding Infant Daycare
  - Seek recommendations from friends, family members, or co-workers
  - Research the options a few months before the baby will be enrolled.
  - Compile a list of potential daycares.
  - Schedule appointments for visiting the facilities and meeting the staff.
- Selecting Infant Daycare
  - Verify that the daycare center is fully licensed.
  - Talk with the daycare director about the center's policies in regard to hours of operation, tuition costs, security systems and first aid procedures.
  - Spend time talking with the infant room caregivers.
  - Examine the layout and contents of the infant room.
  - Make sure the infant room is located in an area that is separate from classrooms with older children.
  - Make sure a restroom with a changing table, running water, and hand sanitizers is attached or near to the infant room.
  - Make sure the feeding area, bedding, toys, and infant belongings are kept clean and organized.
  - Make sure there is sufficient space for storing diaper bags.
  - Make sure there is a refrigerator for storing milk and baby food.
  - Make sure the infant room is baby-proofed.
  - Observe the infant room staff taking care of the babies.
  - Make sure the staff is highly trained, educated and experienced in infant development and care.
  - Make sure the daycare center offers continuity of care by having the same staff members care for your child each day.
  - Check if the daycare share important milestones that your child has reached.
  - Bring your baby to the daycare facility for short visits prior to enrollment.