

Daycare Checklist

By Laura Cooper Peterson

- Daycare Provider
 - Appears warm and friendly.
 - Treats children with respect, flexibility, and patience.
 - Is able to meet your child's developmental and emotional needs.
 - Gives children individual attention.
 - Sets reasonable and consistent limits.
 - Supplies you with information for variety of issues such as: hours of operation, vacations, holidays, payment, fees, discipline policies, sick policies, etc.
 - Provide a contract that clearly states the agreed to terms of the childcare services.
 - Staff have training in early childhood development.
 - Teachers trained in first aid and CPR.
 - Background checks are completed on staff members.
- Daycare Environment
 - Bright, cheerful setting.
 - Children appear happy, comfortable, and relaxed.
 - Safe, clean indoor and outdoor areas with adequate space.
 - Toys and equipment are safe and age appropriate.
 - Various open ended play materials such as puzzles, blocks, dress up props.
 - Toys are within children's reach, well organized, and easy for children to clean up.
 - Sanitary bathrooms and clean kitchen area.
 - Hand washing after toileting and before meals and snacks.
 - Separate cribs for infants and separate cots/mats for others.
 - Cleaning materials, medicines, and sharp utensils out of reach of children.
- Daycare Program
 - Daily routine that is consistent but flexible and provides a variety of activities, and indoor/outdoor times.
 - Activities that are open ended, child directed.
 - Children have the opportunity to experiment with various art materials.
 - Healthy snacks and/or meals.
 - Supervised rest time.
 - Minimal, supervised TV if any.
- Daycare Regulations
 - Has a copy of a license or registration certificate from states family childcare licensing agency.
 - Has a CPR and First Aid Certificate.
 - Has emergency phone numbers & evacuation plan.
 - Should not exceed number of children licensed for.
 - Outlet covers, gates to block stairways, smoke detectors are installed and in proper working condition.
 - Has a first aid kit on hand.
 - There are restrictions on who may pick up a child.

- The playground equipment meet safety standards.
- Hazardous materials kept out of reach of children.