

# Quality Child Care Checklist

## Caregivers

- Caregivers develop warm, caring, and positive relationships with child(ren) in care.
- Caregivers talk to children on their level.
- Children are treated as individuals with different abilities.
- Children's needs are quickly met even when busy.
- Caregivers have received required training including CPR, First Aid, and 8 hours of early childhood education but also strive for additional professional development.
- Caregivers are always prepared to answer parent questions.
- Caregivers update parents on children's daily activities.
- Parent ideas and concerns are welcomed and parent involvement is available.
- Adult to child ratios are met at all times according to licensing standards.  
(Adult : Child— Family 1:6 and 3 can be infants; Group 2:12 and 6 can be infants; Center is determined by usable square footage and age groups. Call Child Care Solutions for more details).



## Setting

- The atmosphere is clean, comfortable, and child friendly.
- The outdoor play area is safe with a variety of activities.
- There is enough space for the children to be comfortable during every activity.
- There are multiple areas for resting, quiet play, and active play.

## Activities

- There is a daily balance of play time, story times, activity times, and naptime.
- Activities are age appropriate.
- There are enough toys and materials for all children.

## Other important aspects

- You agree with the discipline/guidance practices demonstrated and described in program policies.
- Child care has a contract that outlines policies such as sick child, emergency plans, fees, payment, hours of operation, holidays, etc.
- You hear sounds of happy children when visiting the child care.
- Children are comforted when needed.
- Surprise visits are welcomed and encouraged.
- This could be a "home away from home" for your child(ren).

## Warning Signals

- The child care does not encourage parents to observe or requests that all visits be planned in advance.
- There are too many children for adequate care and supervision.
- There are few activities planned for children and little guidance.
- The facility is dirty and/or unsafe.
- Caregivers are physically rough, abusive, or yell at the children.
- The child care program seems to be on shaky ground financially and has no consistent program or schedule.
- The child care program is not licensed or registered with the state and thus breaking the law.
- The child care has deficiencies from licensing for not meeting health or safety rules.

