

CHILDCARE



A childcare provider should offer much more than basic care. They should provide quality interaction on a daily basis. Children should be treated as individuals, with activities provided that best suit their age and ability levels. Find a program that is flexible and recognizes your family's specific needs.

What kind of program to look for

- A licensed facility with an adequate number of well-trained staff members
- A program that encourages parents to actively engage and work as partners
- One that provides a caring, pleasant atmosphere with nurturing and affectionate caregivers
- One that has clearly written policies that meet your standards
- One that encourages exploration, skill development, and learning

What to consider when visiting

- Does the environment seem comfortable and safe?
- Is the space bright and cheery?
- Listen for happy and busy sounds among the children.
- Look for pleasant interactions between children and caregivers.
- Check for balanced menus and nutritious snacks.
- Ask yourself "Would I be happy spending my day here?"
- Don't be afraid to ask questions!

Additional tips

- Get involved and keep the lines of communication open.
- Trust your instincts!
- Above all, children should be smiling, happy, and busy when they are in a program.