



## Childcare Checklist for Parents

We have created this checklist to help you in your search for the best “home away from home” for your little one. These questions have been adapted based on suggestions from the Office of Children and Family Services guide “*As You Think about Childcare*”. Please feel free to take notes and ask questions while touring.

### Hours & Location

What are the hours?	
Is the center close to home and/or work?	
Are the pick-up and drop-off times flexible?	
Is there an opening for my child?	

### Cost

How often is tuition due?	
What is the cost and what does it include?	
Any additional fees for supplies, late payment, registration, etc.?	
Do fees include lunch/breakfast?	

### Quality

How many children are enrolled?	
Are you an accredited center? What accreditations?	
What is the teacher-to-child ratio?	
Do teachers receive regular professional development?	

### Health & Safety

Are the toys safe and in good condition?	
Is the outdoor play area properly enclosed and up-to-date?	

What types of childproofing have the centers undergone?	
Are the caregivers CPR certified?	
Do you have first aid kits readily available?	
Is there enough space?	
Are there working smoke detectors?	
Do you provide diapers?	
Who prepares meals?	
Is there a menu? Is the food nutritious?	

### **Routines**

Are babies fed on demand or on a schedule?	
How often are cleanings?	
What are your nap schedules?	
Are there consistent snack times?	
How often do you encourage outdoor play?	
Is there regular verbal and written communication between staff and parents?	

### **Learning & Engagement**

What types of creative activities do you provide?	
Are there regular story times?	
Do you have song or music time?	
How often do you allow for puzzles, games, and building exercises?	
Is the curriculum developmentally appropriate?	
How are children disciplined?	