

What should I look for when choosing a Child Care Program for my Preschooler?

If the answers to some of these questions are still not clear after you have seen the facility and observed a classroom or family child care home, do not be afraid to ask as many questions as you need to in order to get your answers! **A high quality facility will feel comfortable responding to all your questions.**

STAFF QUESTIONS:

- ✓ Do the teachers seem respectful of the children?

- ✓ Do the teachers ask engaging questions? Do the teachers answer the children's questions?

- ✓ Do the teachers give the children clear limits so that they understand what they can and cannot do in the classroom and outside?

- ✓ Do the teachers share information with me upon arrival and/or pick-up about my child's day?

- ✓ Are the children getting individualized attention?

- ✓ How long does the average staff member stay at the facility?

- ✓ Is the required amount of staff present to serve the children?

(Minimum standards: Child care center: Infants: 1 to 5, Toddlers: 1 to 6, Two's: 1 to 10, Three's: 1 to 15, Four's: 1 to 20; Family child care home: 8 children to 1 caregiver; only 5 can be ages 0-5)

SETTING QUESTIONS:

- ✓ How is the lighting and ventilation? Too dim, too bright, is it adjustable?

- ✓ Does the outdoor play area seem safe and large enough for active play?

- ✓ Does the air smell clean indoors?

- ✓ What are the procedures for keeping the room and the toys clean?

- ✓ Does the child care area look organized, with different areas for different kinds of play?

ACTIVITY QUESTIONS:

- ✓ Do the children get to go outside everyday?

- ✓ Are the children read to daily?

- ✓ Do I see materials for pretend play, outdoor play, sand and water play, painting, and science?

- ✓ Do I see books, puzzles, blocks, and musical instruments?

- ✓ Does my child spend the majority of his time choosing his own play activities and playmates?

- ✓ Do the children watch television? If so, how much and what programs?

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

- ✓ What is the sick child policy?

- ✓ Do they provide nutritious meals and snacks?

- ✓ Are my questions, comments, and visits welcomed?

