



Child Care Checklist

www.mylpa.net

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Choosing a quality child care program is one of the most important decisions you will make for your family. A good program will help your child learn new skills, grow socially and be prepared for school.

Pay attention to your instincts and trust your ability to make the best decision.

We encourage parents to visit other centers and compare what we offer.

We are proud and confident of the quality of our program.

What to look for:	LPA	#2	#3
Basics			
How long has the school been in business?			
Is the school welcoming, friendly and positive?			
Is the program licensed? Is the license posted?			
What are the hours of operation?			
Do they have written policies and procedures regarding discipline, resolving conflicts, etc?			
Are there secure arrival and departure procedures?			
Are references and background checked and completed on all staff?			
Are there training requirements for teachers and are there ongoing professional development?			
Are the teachers certified in First Aid and CPR?			
Are the teachers drug tested?			
Are the parents informed of illness, injury, behavior issues, biting, eating, etc?			
Is there a written sick policy?			
Is the school able to dispense medication? If so, how often?			
Is there an emergency preparedness plan?			
Is there an area for children who become ill to be isolated until a parent picks them up?			
Does the school encourage parents to visit anytime?			
Classroom Environment			
What is the child to teacher ratio?			
Do the children look happy, having fun? Is it positive?			
Are the children involved in activities?			
Are there plenty of book and toys? Are they accessible to the children?			
Do the children appear well cared for?			
Is there space for the children to move freely?			
Is it a safe and clean environment with no major safety problems?			
Is there child-sized furniture and is it in good condition?			
Are separate spaces available for different age groups?			
Are there pictures and children's artwork posted?			
Is there a place for each child to keep their belongings?			
Do the staff and children follow good hand washing procedures?			
Are cleaning products and medicines put of the children's reach?			

Teacher/Child Interaction			
Do the teachers understand stages of early childhood development?			
How long have the teachers worked with children and with the company?			
Are the teachers kind and encouraging to the children?			
Is the teacher listening and talking with individual children?			
Is the teacher maintaining control of the class in a positive way?			
Are the children being assisted in solving their own problems through appropriate social skills?			
Do teachers encourage and model good character and social skills?			
Program/Curriculum			
Is there a daily schedule of activities?			
Is there a lesson plan?			
Does the philosophy fit with the values you have for your child?			
Is there a curriculum and is it evident in the classroom?			
Does the curriculum prepare children for Kindergarten?			
Are there materials to support literacy (books, labels on shelves etc)			
does the program include large group activities as well as small group and individual play?			
Does the program provide language, science, math, blocks, dramatic play, art, music, and a quiet area?			
Is there a scheduled quiet time for the children to relax? Is nap time scheduled?			
Is there a planned meal routine, schedule and rotation of menus?			
Is the menu posted and are the meals nutritious?			
Does the school handle children's allergies and special needs?			
Outdoors			
Are the children provided with outdoor time or physical activity each day?			
Is the outdoor area clean, safe and provide enough shade for the children?			
Is the area large enough for gross motor activities (trikes, balls, running)?			
Is the area fenced in?			
Is the playground equipment appropriate for the age group using that area?			
Is the area open so the teacher can see the children playing?			
Tuition And Fees			
What are the rates per child and are these based on the age of the child?			
Are meals and snacks included or is there an additional fee?			
Are diapers and wipes provided or do you bring them? Is there an additional fee if you want the day care to provide them?			
Are there any additional fees for registration, supplies, late payment or additional programs?			
Are there any discounts or credits available?			
Does the school accept assistance programs when available?			

Notes:
