



Daycare Checklist

From Senator

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51st Senate District

The following points are good ways to measure the quality of a child care home or center.

CAREGIVERS/TEACHERS

- Do the caregivers/teachers seem to really like children?
- Do the caregivers/teachers get down on each child's level to speak to the child?
- Are children greeted when they arrive?
- Are children's needs quickly met even when things get busy?
- Are the caregivers/teachers trained in CPR, first aid and early childhood education?
- Are the caregivers/teachers involved in continuing education programs?
- Does the program keep up with children's changing interests?
- Will the caregivers/teachers be ready to answer your questions?
- Will the caregivers/teachers tell you what your child is doing every day?
- Are parents' ideas welcomed? Are there ways for you to get involved?
- Do the caregivers/teachers and the children enjoy being together?
- Is there enough staff to serve the children?
- Have caregivers/teachers participated in early childhood development classes?
- Are caregivers/teachers trained and experienced?

SETTING

- Is the atmosphere bright and pleasant?
- Is there a fenced-in outdoor play area with a variety of safe equipment?
- Can the staff see the entire playground at all times?
- Are there different areas for resting, quiet play and active play?
- Are there fire extinguishers visible? Are there enough smoke detectors?

ACTIVITIES

- Is there a daily balance of play time, story time, activity time and nap time?
- Are the activities appropriate for each age group?
- Are there enough toys and learning materials?
- Are toys clean, safe and within reach of children?

IN GENERAL

- Do you agree with the discipline practices?
- Do you hear the sounds of happy children?
- Are children comforted when needed?
- Are surprise visits by parents encouraged?
- Will your child be happy there?
- Is the facility licensed/registered?



For further information on day care and quality day care providers in your area, check the New York State Office of Children & Family Services website:

www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/childcare