



Assessing Quality Checklist

Find quality care and early education by asking quality questions. Use this list of indicators to develop questions for each program you visit.

1. Caring.

A close, positive relationship exists between children and their provider/early educator. A caring relationship is the foundation of good care. The adult should be consistent, kind, and patient. Look for someone who spends a lot of time talking with and listening to each child.

2. Training.

The provider understands child development and has been trained to care for children. When adults truly understand children "the how, when and why certain skills, behaviors, and common feelings develop" they are better prepared to meet a child's needs.

3. Group size.

Children are cared for in small groups and receive the attention they need from adults. Studies show the quality of care improves when children are in smaller groups and get more individualized attention.

4. Environment.

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The program space is clean and safe. Toys and equipment must be in good condition, safe, and sanitary. Inspect the eating, diapering/bathroom, sleeping, and indoor/outdoor play spaces. Well-thought out plans for supervision and emergencies should be in place.

5. Planned Activity.

A variety of activities are planned throughout the day that are interesting and involve each child. Children need a variety of activities such as story time, singing, games, dress-up play, building toys, and outdoor time. A daily routine is also important for creating a stable and secure environment.

6. Track Development.

Children are regularly observed and their learning and development is tracked. This information informs how activities and interactions are tailored for your child and is shared with you.

7. Respectful.

The provider is respectful of each child's unique background and encourages children to celebrate their individuality. Activities that teach about similarities and differences in realistic, positive ways help children learn to value and respect themselves and others.

8. Communication.

Parents and providers/early educators communicate daily about the children's well-being. You and your provider educator will be partners, both invested in your child's development. Children are constantly growing and changing so information sharing is essential. Bulletin boards, notes, or a daily conversation at the end of the day are all ways a program can keep you updated.

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