



## CHILD CARE CHECKLIST

- Is the program licensed? Ask to see a copy of the license.
- What is the ratio of children to caregivers? Check the license for capacity and ages.
- Is there an open door policy that welcomes your visits, participation and input?
- Does the caregiver encourage you to share appropriate information about your child and family? How is ongoing communication encouraged between parent(s) and caregiver?
- What is the program philosophy? Does the caregiver respect your concerns as a parent(s) and your philosophy, values, and goals for your child?
- Does the caregiver listen closely to children and use positive language when talking to them? Do you feel comfortable with this person and the way she/he interacts with you and the children?
- What are the expectations and rules for children's behavior? Does the caregiver use positive and non-punitive discipline methods? Ask and look for examples.
- What type of child care training has the caregiver received?
- Does the caregiver talk with the children and play with them on the floor?
- Observe the indoor and outdoor environments for safety and cleanliness.
- Are materials easily available to children? Are toys and materials appropriate to the development levels of the children? Is there enough variety to facilitate development in all areas?
- How is the day structured? Are there scheduled times for free play, structured activities, meals, quiet time, naps, and outdoor play?
- Are daily or weekly activity plans posted? What types of activities are provided, both child-initiated and adult-initiated? Does your child bring home of variety to things to show you?
- What is the policy on watching TV?
- Are meals and snacks provided? Are they nutritious and fresh? Are menu plans posted? Is social interaction encouraged during meal and snack times?
- Do the children seem happy, secure, and stimulated? How would you feel in this particular program, and group of children?
- Is your child eager to go there each day? Does she/he talk positively about friends, activities, and the caregiver? Is your child happy when you arrive, even reluctant to go home?