

CHECKLIST FOR CHOOSING A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME

Take three steps before putting your child in someone's home:

1. Visit the family child care home - more than once and at different times of day.
2. Carefully look around.
3. Ask lots of questions.

Here's what to look for and ask about:

- Can you visit unannounced any time your child is there? Do you feel welcome?
- Is the caregiver warm, friendly, and clean?
- Does the caregiver have experience with children? What kind?
- Does the caregiver treat each child as a special person?
- Does the caregiver listen and talk to children?
- What hours is the child care available?
- How much will it cost?
- Does the caregiver's approach to child rearing agree with yours?
- Does the caregiver encourage self-help, independence, and self expression?
- What does the caregiver do when a child is angry or fearful?
- Is the home licensed? If not, why not?
- Is the home clean and comfortable?
- Are all poisons, medicines, and sharp objects stored in a locked area?

Weapons and firearms must be in a locked cabinet. Ammunition needs to be stored in a separate area which is also locked. Parents are to be notified when weapons, firearms, or ammunition are present at a facility.



CAUTION! *You're hiring a substitute parent to care for your child, not just a babysitter!*

- Is the home free from mess and clutter?
- Is there a first aid kit readily available?
- Are emergency numbers posted next to the telephone?
- Is there a planned program of activities?
- Are there books and story times?
- Are there both indoor and outdoor play areas and activities?
- Do the children spend most of the day playing instead of watching television?
- Are healthy, nutritious snacks and meals served?
- Where are naps taken? What do children sleep on?
- Are toys clean, safe, and in good working condition?
- What happens if your child gets sick?
- What are vacation day & sick day policies?
- Get references from other parents who now have or had children in the home.
- Is this a place you'd like your child to spend many days of his/her life?

During or after your visit, if you have the feeling something isn't quite right, KEEP LOOKING. Trust your feelings. Don't place your child in this home.

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