

# EARLY EDUCATION & CHILD CARE Checklist

*Choosing the best program for your child is an exciting and important decision that can set the stage for the first five years of development. As you explore options and visit different centers, reference this checklist – created by parents and early childhood educators – to help you choose a safe, enriching learning environment.*

## Health & Safety

- ☐ Does the center have a secure entrance?  
What are the drop-off/pick-up procedures?
- ☐ Do teachers have the required training and certification in CPR and first aid?
- ☐ Do the teacher-to-child ratios meet or exceed the state requirements?
- ☐ How are food allergies handled?
- ☐ Are surfaces disinfected throughout the day and at closing?
- ☐ What is the center's approach to discipline?

## Additional Protocols

- ☐ Does the center perform daily health screens on parents, children, and staff?
- ☐ Are teachers, staff, and visitors required to wear masks?
- ☐ How is the center practicing physical distancing?
- ☐ Is the center reducing group sizes and keeping consistent groups of children and teachers?
- ☐ Is the center modifying food preparation and service to ensure safe snack and mealtimes?
- ☐ Does the center provide guidelines for families to pack lunch and snack safely?
- ☐ How do teachers help children keep their hands clean?
- ☐ Does the center teach children good hygiene practices in an effective and age appropriate way?
- ☐ Is the playground or outdoor space limited to one group at a time? Are surfaces disinfected after each use?

## Programs & Curriculum

- ☐ Is the program accredited by or working toward accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or a state accreditation program?
- ☐ Is there a curriculum? Ask to see an example of a weekly plan.
- ☐ Are children happily and busily engaged in interesting and diverse activities and projects?
- ☐ Do you see displays of what the children are doing and learning?
- ☐ Are children's goals and progress documented?
- ☐ Are children provided choices between individual and small group activities inside the classroom as well as outdoors?
- ☐ Which enrichments are included in the tuition and which are an additional cost?



## Infant Program

- ☐ Can mothers bring in breast milk? Can it be frozen? How would breast milk and formula be labeled?
- ☐ Will each baby have his own crib?
- ☐ Will my baby get tummy time each day?
- ☐ How is an infant offered a safe way to move, explore, be fed and comforted?
- ☐ Is the daily schedule adjusted according to each baby's needs?
- ☐ Will my baby get an introduction to basic sign language to communicate their needs?

## Toddler Program

- ☐ How are children's self-help skills fostered?
- ☐ How are children supported through toilet training – and is it a requirement for moving on to preschool?
- ☐ How do teachers adapt to individual differences in children's eating and sleeping routines?
- ☐ How do teachers emphasize language development?
- ☐ How do teachers create daily experiences that support self-esteem, diversity, and respect?

## Preschool Program

- ☐ How does the curriculum prepare my child for school?
- ☐ Do children have access to a variety of technology that allows them to think & create?
- ☐ What guidelines are in place to supervise technology use?
- ☐ Does the center have supporting data on school readiness success?
- ☐ Do the center and classroom environments promote inclusion and feature diverse materials?

## Loving & Professional Staff

- ☐ Do children have a consistent group of primary teachers?
- ☐ Do teachers interact with children in caring, respectful, and positive ways?
- ☐ How do teachers manage a wide range of abilities in one classroom?
- ☐ How will my child's individual needs be met?
- ☐ Are there opportunities for career development and training for teachers?

## Communication & Family Resources

- ☐ Are there any currently enrolled families willing to speak about the center?
- ☐ Is there a process for preparing parents and children for their first day?
- ☐ Is there daily communication about my child's day?
- ☐ How will the center help me continue what my child is learning there at home?
- ☐ Are there opportunities for parents to meet together and be involved as a group?

## Notes

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For more information on enhanced health and safety protocols at **Bright Horizons®**, visit [brighthorizons.com/health-safety](https://brighthorizons.com/health-safety)