

Place a check in the box if the program meets your expectations.

Are cleaning supplies and other poisonous materials locked up, out of children's reach?⁸

Is there a plan to follow if a child is injured, sick or lost?⁹

Are first aid kits readily available?¹⁰

Is there a plan for responding to disasters (fire, flood, etc.)?¹¹

Has a satisfactory criminal history background check been conducted on each adult present?

- ▶ Was the check based on fingerprints?¹⁴

Have all the adults who are left alone with children had background and criminal screenings?¹³

Is the outdoor play area a safe place for children to play?³⁹

- ▶ Is it checked each morning for hazards before children use it?²³
- ▶ Is the equipment the right size and type for the age of the children who use it?²⁴
- ▶ In center-based programs, is the playground area surrounded by a fence at least 4 feet tall?²⁵
- ▶ Is the equipment placed on mulch, sand, or rubber matting?²³
- ▶ Is the equipment in good condition?³⁹

Is the number of children in each group limited?

- ▶ In family child care homes and centers, children are in groups of no more than**
- 6-8 infants
- 6-12 younger toddlers
- 8-12 older toddlers
- 12-20 preschoolers
- 20-24 school-agers²⁰

Is the program well-managed?

Does the program have the highest level of licensing offered by the state?⁴²

Are there written personnel policies and job descriptions?¹⁷

Are parents and staff asked to evaluate the program?³⁷

Are staff evaluated each year; do providers do a self-assessment?¹⁸

Is there a written annual training plan for staff professional development?³³

Is the program evaluated each year by someone outside the program?³⁸

Is the program accredited by a national organization?³⁶

Does the program work with parents?

Will I be welcome any time my child is in care?¹

Is parents' feedback sought and used in making program improvements?¹

Will I be given a copy of the program's policies?²

Are annual conferences held with parents?³

These questions are based on research about child care; you can read the research findings on the NACCRRA website under "Questions for Parents to Ask" at <http://www.naccrra.org>.

* These are the adult-to-child ratios and group sizes recommended by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Ratios are lowered when there are one or more children who may need additional help to fully participate in a program due to a disability, or other factors.

** Group sizes are considered the maximum number of children to be in a group, regardless of the number of adult staff.

*** Individuals working in child care can earn a Child Development Associate credential.

For help finding child care in your area, contact Child Care Aware®, a Program of NACCRRA toll-free at 1-800-424-2246 or visit online at www.childcareaware.org.

For information about other AAP publications visit: www.aap.org

Notes:

Endorsed by:

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Office of Child Care

