

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN GOOD CHILDCARE

a quick handy checklist from a childcare provider

- There are plenty of clean, age-appropriate toys
- There are separate spaces dedicated to different activities
- Their license is clearly displayed
- Bookshelves are full of fun choices to read
- Caregivers seem warm and responsive
- Director returns your calls/emails promptly
- They welcome your visits, even unannounced (but try not to go at naptime, to be nice)
- They have a daily schedule that is consistent, but also flexible when needed
- Other parents recommend it
- The rooms look fun and inviting
- There's outdoor play space and it is used all the time
- No TVs, or they are used as a special treat (not every day)
- The center can give you a manual of all of their policies and procedures
- You get a daily handout of what your child's day was like
- The same staff has been working there for years
- They have policies on bringing extra clothing/supplies, and the policies make sense
- Who provides the diapering supplies and who provides the food (you, or the center) is clearly stated, never ambiguous
- The cost is reasonable for your budget. Helpful tip, there might be some sort of state subsidy or scholarship type assistance available. You can always ask!
- It's close to your work, or home so that you can be there quickly when needed

