

## Evaluating Your Provider

The following points are good ways to measure the quality of a child care home or center.

- Caregivers/Teachers**
- Do the caregivers/teachers seem to really like children?
  - Do the caregivers/teachers get down on each child's level to speak to the child?
  - Are children greeted when they arrive?
  - Are children's' needs quickly met even when things get busy?
  - Are the caregivers/teachers trained in CPR, first aid, and early childhood education?
  - Are the caregivers/teachers involved in continuing education programs?
  - Does the program keep up with children's' changing interests?
  - Will the caregivers/teachers always be ready to answer your questions?
  - Will the caregivers/teachers tell you what your child is doing every day?
  - Are parents' ideas welcomed? Are there ways for you to get involved?
  - Do the caregivers/teachers and children enjoy being together?
  - Is there enough staff to serve the children?
  - Are caregivers/teachers trained and experienced?
  - Have they participated in early childhood



development classes?

## **Setting**

- Is the atmosphere bright and pleasant?
- Is there a fenced-in outdoor play area with a variety of safe equipment? Can the caregivers/teachers see the entire playground at all times?
- Are there different areas for resting, quiet play and active play? Is there enough space for the children in all of these areas?

## **Activities**

- Is there a daily balance of play time, story time, activity time and nap time?
- Are the activities right for each age group?
- Are there enough toys and learning materials for the number of children?
- Are toys clean, safe and within reach of the children?

## **In General**

- Do you agree with the discipline practices?
  - Do you hear the sounds of happy children?
  - Are children comforted when needed?
  - Is the program licensed or regulated?
  - Are surprise visits by parents encouraged?
  - Will your child be happy there?
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