

# Quality Child Care Checklist

## Health and Safety

**Q: Does the place look clean? Is hand washing done after using the bathroom, changing diapers and before eating? Are diaper-changing tables cleaned and disinfected with a bleach solution after each use?**

*Why is this important? Clean environments reduce illness and the spread of germs.*

**Q: Does the place look safe? What is the plan in case of emergency or disaster?**

*Why is this important? Safe programs reduce the risk of injury. Programs with an emergency or disaster plan that is reviewed on a regular basis can reduce the risk of injury during a crisis.*

**Q: Does the caregiver attend to the children's needs and give them lots of attention and encouragement? Do you see her talking to children at their eye level and listening closely to each child?**

*Why is this important? Children need to form a bond with their caregiver and feel safe and loved.*

**Q: Do you and your child feel welcomed and respected if you are from a different culture and speak a different language?**

*Why is this important? Children that feel respected of their culture and language have less separation anxiety issues and bond quicker with their caregiver.*

**Q: Is everyone trained in first-aid and infant/child CPR?**

*Why is this important? Anyone caring for a child should have this type of training before being left alone with children.*

**Q: Are children watched at all times, even when sleeping?**

*Why is this important? Having your child monitored while sleeping is important to reduce accidents, especially for infants because they are at higher risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).*

## Learning Environment

**Q: Are just a few children being cared for by one caregiver?**

*Why is this important? You want your child to get plenty of attention. The fewer children for each caregiver, the better the situation is for your child. This is more important the younger your child.*

**Q: If there is more than one caregiver in the setting, is the total number of children in the group still fairly small?**

*Why is this important? Small groups are usually safer and calmer.*

**Q: Is there a daily schedule with planned activities for children to do as well as lots of time for free play? Do caregivers read to children?**

*Why is this important? Good child care programs offer active play and learning activities to help children enter school with the skills they need to succeed.*

## Policies for Parents

**Q: Does the caregiver welcome drop-in visits and parent ideas and involvement?**

*Why is this important? Good child care programs involve parents and work as a team with the family to meet the needs of children.*

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## ***Policies for Parents, continued***

**Q: Are there regular times or ways, in which staff and parents can communicate?**

*Why is this important? Communication between the caregiver and parent is the key to success for the child.*

**Q: How will you be informed about your child's day?**

*Why is this important? This is another way caregivers can communicate with parents about the experiences and routine of their child.*

**Q: Will your child be happy there?**

*Why is this important? You know your child best.*

**Q: I have more questions and want to talk to a child care expert that is not a provider, who do I call?**

*Why is this important? We want you to find the best child care for your child. Call us directly at (888) 962-2772, we'll put you in touch with one of our Referral Specialists, FREE!*

## ***Staff Training***

**Q: Does the person who will be caring for your child have the required special training? Do they attend classes and workshops to improve their skills?**

*Why is this important? Caregivers with degrees or special training in working with children will be better able to help your child learn.*

**Q: How long has the caregiver been in the same program or providing child care in the home?**

*Why is this important? Caregivers who come and go make it hard on your child. It's best if children can stay with the same caregiver for at least a year.*

**Q: Have all adults been trained on preventing child abuse, spotting potential signs of abuse, and on rules of reporting suspected abuse?**

*Why is this important? There is less chance of something going terribly wrong if all the adults in your child's life work together to guard against abuse.*

## ***Administration***

**Q: Oklahoma has a quality rating system for child care providers in our state. Does your program participate?**

*Why is this important? Programs that participate in Oklahoma's quality rating system have met voluntary standards for child care that are higher than Oklahoma's basic licensing requirements.*

**Q: Is the child care program accredited by a national organization?**

*Why is this important? Accredited child care programs are more likely to offer a higher quality of care.*

For more information call Oklahoma Child Care Resource & Referral Association, toll free (888) 962-2772.