

Is This the Right Place for My Child?

38 Research-Based Indicators of High-Quality Child Care

(Make a copy of this checklist to use with each program you visit.)



The following checklist is excerpted from *Is This the Right Place for My Child?*, a publication of the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA). To learn more about the child care quality indicators listed below—including why each is important to your child’s health, safety, and development, and the research from which they were drawn—please visit www.naccrra.org/parent/ and download your own **free** PDF of *Is This the Right Place for My Child?*

Notes:

Place a check in the box if the program meets your expectations.	
Will my child be supervised?	
	Are children watched at all times, including when they are sleeping? ¹⁵
	Are adults warm and welcoming? Do they pay individual attention to each child? ⁴⁰
	Are positive guidance techniques used? Do adults avoid yelling, spanking, and other negative punishments? ¹⁶
	Are the caregiver/teacher-to-child ratios appropriate and do they follow the recommended guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ One caregiver per 3 or 4 infants ▶ One caregiver per 3 or 4 young toddlers ▶ One caregiver per 4 to 6 older toddlers ▶ One caregiver per 6 to 9 preschoolers¹⁹
Have the adults been trained to care for children?	
	If a center, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Does the director have a degree and some experience in caring for children?^{27/28/29} ▶ Do the teachers have a credential*** or Associate’s degree and experience in caring for children?^{27/28/29} If a family child care home, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Has the provider had specific training on children’s development and experience caring for children?³⁰
	Is there always someone present who has current CPR and first aid training? ³²
	Are the adults continuing to receive training on caring for children? ³³
	Have the adults been trained on child abuse prevention and how to report suspected cases? ^{12/13}
Will my child be able to grow and learn?	
	For older children, are there specific areas for different kinds of play (books, blocks, puzzles, art, etc.)? ²¹
	For infants and toddlers, are there toys that “do something” when the child plays with them? ⁴¹
	Is the play space organized and are materials easy-to-use? Are some materials available at all times? ²¹
	Are there daily or weekly activity plans available? Have the adults planned experiences for the children to enjoy? Will the activities help children learn? ²²
	Do the adults talk with the children during the day? Do they engage them in conversations? Ask questions, when appropriate? ⁴³
	Do the adults read to children at least twice a day or encourage them to read, if they can read? ⁴³

