



Choosing Child Care

Questions to Ask Child Care Providers

Health and Safety

- Are the proper adult/child ratios maintained?
- Is the program legally operating according to Kansas or Missouri law?
- Are children supervised by an adult at all times?
- Is the setting bright and attractive with adequate space for quiet and active play both indoors/outdoors?
- Are there safe areas for napping?
- Is the program clean overall (bathrooms and diapering areas, kitchen, play areas) and is hand-washing practiced regularly?
- Are all areas that are used for child care childproofed and free of hazards and is all equipment safe and in good repair?
- Are there working smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and a first aid kit?
- Is an emergency evacuation plan posted and practiced?
- Are there emergency contact names and numbers for each child?
- Is there a written policy for handling accidents or injuries?
- Does the provider have liability insurance or a waiver of liability?
- Does the provider or center staff have up-to-date training in pediatric first aid and CPR?
- Does the provider or center use appropriate car seats or safety belts for each child if children are being transported?
- If food is furnished at the facility, is it nutritionally balanced and prepared and stored in a safe manner?
- Does the provider have a back-up plan in case of a medical emergency?

Provider's Personal Style

- Is the provider someone who is warm, sensitive to children's needs, and responds lovingly and respectfully to children?
- Does the provider give each child individual attention?

- Are the children encouraged to use their imagination and creativity in ways that build self-esteem? For example, does the provider interact respectfully with children, using a positive tone of voice?
- Does the provider have a firm but loving approach to discipline? (Note: spanking, humiliating, neglect or abuse, withholding food or drink and restricting sleep or toileting are strictly prohibited in licensed facilities.)
- Is the provider willing to discuss your child with you, and are parents welcome to make unannounced visits at any time?
- Does the provider tell parents about their child's achievements as well as concerns?
- Is the provider accepting of your cultural and family values?
- Does the provider encourage learning through play?

Provider's Professionalism

- Is the provider knowledgeable about child development?
- Does the provider continue to keep up-to-date by attending trainings and seminars?
- How much experience caring for children does the provider have?
- Does the provider give parents a daily report (written or oral) of their child's activities?
- Is there a written policy for handling complaints/concerns from parents?
- Are the child abuse reporting procedures provided to parents?
- Does the provider use written agreements (e.g., fee payment, discipline policy, attendance policy) and clearly communicate the expectations and policies of the program?
- Does the provider have a reference list of current and past clients available?