

Choosing Child Care



Questions about the site and the child care provider's qualifications:

How long have you been providing child care? _____

What is your background? _____

Have you completed any early childhood development classes? _____

Are you certified in infant and child CPR? _____ When was your last certification? _____

Do you have first aid training? _____ When was your last certification? _____

Is there adequate space for playing and sleeping? _____

Are the toys clean and in good condition? _____

Do you have a current state license or registration? _____
(Home daycare providers do not have to be licensed or registered.)

Will you give me the names of three or four families I could contact for a reference? _____

Questions about the site works:

How many children do you care for? _____ What are their ages? _____

Do others ever help you provide care? _____

What are their qualifications? _____

Do you ever let the older children help take care of the babies? _____

What is a typical day for children? _____

What do you do with a baby when the older children are playing outside? _____

How much television do you let the children watch? _____

What is your discipline policy? _____

What is your policy if my baby becomes ill? _____

If my child misses a day, do I still have to pay? _____

What happens if you get sick? _____

What days off do you take? _____

How much notice will I get regarding your vacation? _____

How much do you charge for providing care for an infant? _____

Questions about health and safety:

- Do you smoke? _____ If yes, where? _____
- Are there working smoke detectors? _____ Is there a fire escape plan? _____
- Do you keep firearms in your house? _____ If yes, are they locked? _____
- Do you always put babies to sleep on their backs? _____
- How often do you wash your hands? _____
- Is the diapering area away from the food and play areas? _____
- How is the diaper changing area cleaned? _____
- Is the kitchen clean? _____
- Are food and medicine properly stored and refrigerated? _____
- Are toxic cleaning supplies and other dangers locked away? _____
- Are there covers on all electrical outlets? _____
- Is the place baby-proofed (security gates, window guards, door latches)? _____
- Are the first aid kit and emergency numbers easy to find? _____
- Is there a fenced-in outdoor play area with safe equipment? _____
- How often do you clean the toys? _____
- Are sick children allowed? _____

Questions about the child care provider's attitudes:

- Why are you working as a child care provider? _____
- _____
- What are your feelings about my breastfeeding after I return to work? _____
- _____
- How will you help me continue to breastfeed? _____
- _____

Then ask yourself:

- Is the child care provider someone I could easily talk to and confide in? _____
- Does this person make me feel comfortable? _____
- Does this person share my values? _____
- Is this person someone my baby would like? _____