

Choosing Child Care Worksheet

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? _____

Will you give me the names of 3 or 4 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 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? _____

(over)

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? _____

What food is provided? How is it prepared? _____

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? _____