

Questions to Ask Child Care Centers

- What are your operating hours?
- What is a typical day like? (Ask to see a schedule of their activities.)
- How much time do the children spend outside each day?
- What is your policy regarding naptime?
- What is your discipline policy?
- Do the children watch TV or DVDs? How often?
- What is your policy regarding sick kids?
- Do you have a sick care option?
- Do I have to pay for days when my child is absent due to illness or vacation?
- What types of meals and snacks do you serve?
- Do you charge extra if I'm late picking up my child?
- What is your overall child care philosophy?
- What is your security/safety policies?
- What is the ratio of staff to children?
- What is the drop-in policy?
- Are you licensed with the Department of Early Learning?

What to Observe During Your Visit

- How does the staff relate to the children?
- How do the children interact with one another?
- Are activities structured and appropriate for your child's age group?
- Do you and your family feel comfortable when you are there?
- Do you feel welcome?
- Will your child be happy there?
- Observe the living and play environment, look for clean and safe areas free of clutter or potential safety hazards.
- Do you see pictures, books, etc. reflecting your family's culture?
- Is the noise level reasonable for the activities taking place?
- Is there a variety and choice of activities for the children?