

CHOOSING A QUALITY FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER

It may be best to conduct your initial visit with the child care provider when children are not present. This will give both you and the provider an opportunity to have an in-depth interview without interruption. A second visit should be scheduled with your child when other children are present. This will give you an opportunity to observe the provider with the children in care and how he/she relates to your child.

QUESTIONS TO ASK THE FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDER:

- How many children do you care for and what are their ages?
- Who else is in your home during the day? (older children, relatives, etc.)
- Do you have an assistant?
- What is your child care experience and educational background?
- How long have you been caring for children in your home?
- Are you certified in CPR and First Aid?
- Why did you choose to become a child care provider?
- What are your policies regarding discipline, toilet training and sick children?
- What are your weekly rates?
- What hours are you available?
- What is your policy regarding late pick up?
- What days are you closed for holidays and vacation?
- Do you have back up for days you are closed?
- Do you require a contract with families?
- Can you give me names of parents as references?

THINGS TO LOOK FOR WHEN YOU VISIT:

- Does the provider pay individual attention to each child?
- Is the provider attentive and affectionate to each child?
- Is the home safe?
- Is the play area sufficient?
- Are there age appropriate toys and activities?
- Is the sleeping area favorable for napping?

ASK YOURSELF:

- Are you comfortable with this provider?
- Do you trust her to care for your child?
- Do you feel you will have open communication with this provider?
- Will your child be happy in this home?
- Will your child be happy with this group of children?
- Do the references you received from the provider check out?



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