



Checklist for Choosing a Daycare

<http://www.momtocomchat.com>

Initial contact should be made by phone to find out some basic information about the daycare such as:

- location
- hours of operation
- cost and what is included (meals, snacks)
- licenses held
- sick child policy

Then visit the facility so that you can see first hand or ask additional questions about how the facility operates such as:

- cleanliness of the facility
- safety of the facility (fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, first aid kits, staff knows CPR)
- area(s) where children will be are properly heated/cooled, spacious, well lit, brightly colored
- outdoor play area is safe
- age-appropriate toys and equipment are clean and in good shape
- snacks and meals are healthy
- emergency procedures in place (emergency numbers clearly posted)
- proper hygiene practiced
- security policies (who can pick up your child)
- children are actually being watched and played with
- children appear happy and well cared for
- regular rest/nap periods are offered in an appropriate area
- varied activities
- parental visits offered
- grouping of children (age, grade, developmental abilities)
- offsite activities offered
- reading time/area
- manual of policies/procedures
- contract/agreements to sign

During your visit, you can also find out the necessary information about the staff:

- experience/training/education/licenses
- ratio of staff to child is sufficient
- responsive to needs of children
- open communication with parents offered
- disciplinary policies
- acceptance of different race/ethnic groups

When you have enough information...

- How comfortable do you feel leaving your children at the facility?
- Did your child seem comfortable during your visit?