

A Checklist for Parents

This checklist is designed to help you make a decision regarding child care and your child(ren).

Does The Prospective Child Care Facility.....

For All Children:	Yes	No
Appear to be warm and friendly?		
Seem calm and gentle?		
Seem to have a sense of humor?		
Seem to be someone with whom you can develop a relaxed, sharing relationship?		
Seem to be someone your child will enjoy being with?		
Have child-rearing attitudes and methods similar to your own?		
Treat each child as a special person?		
Understand what children can and want to do at different stages of growth?		
Have the right materials and equipment on hand to help children learn and grow socially, emotionally cognitively and physically?		
Patiently help children solve their problems?		
Provide activities that encourage children to think things through?		
Encourage good health habits, such as washing hands before eating?		
Talk to the children and encourage them to express themselves through words and language?		
Have art and music supplies suited to the ages of all children in care?		
Help each child know, accept and feel good about him or herself?		
Help each child become independent in ways you approve?		
Help each child learn to get along with and respect other people, no matter what their backgrounds?		
Provide a routine and rules children can understand and follow?		
Accept and respect each family's cultural values?		
Take time to discuss the child with the parent?		
Have previous experience or training in working with children?		
For Infants or Toddlers	Yes	No
Seem to enjoy cuddling each baby?		
Care for each baby's physical needs, such as feeding and diapering?		
Spend time holding, playing with and talking to each baby?		
Provide stimulation by pointing out things to look at, touch and listen to?		
Provide dependable and consistent care so each baby can form an attachment and feel important?		
Cooperate with parent's efforts to toilet train a toddler?		

Realize toddlers want to do things for themselves and help each child learn to feed and dress him/herself, go to the bathroom and pick up his or her own toys?		
Help each child learn language by talking with him or her, naming things, reading aloud, describing what she or he is doing and responding to each child's words?		
For Preschoolers	Yes	No
Plan many different activities for children?		
Join in activities him or herself?		
Set consistent limits that help each child gradually learn to make his or her own choices?		
Recognize the value of play and encourage each child to be creative and use his or her imagination?		
Help each child feel good about him or herself by being attentive, patient, positive, warm and accepting?		
Allow each child to do things for him or herself because the caregiver understands children can learn from their mistakes?		
Help each child increase his or her vocabulary by talking with him or her, reading aloud and answering questions?		
For School-Age Children	Yes	No
Give each child supervision and security but also understand his or her growing need for independence?		
Set reasonable and consistent limits?		
At the same time, allow each child to make choices and gradually take responsibility?		
Understand the conflict and confusion that growing children sometimes feel?		
Help each child follow through on projects and suggest interesting things to do?		
Listen to each child's problems and experiences?		
Respect each child when he or she expresses new ideas, values or opinions?		
Cooperate with you to set clear limits and expectations about behavior?		
Understand the conflicts and confusion older school-age children feel?		
Provide each child with a good adult image to admire and copy?		
Does the Child Care Center Have:		
For All Children	Yes	No
An up-to-date license certificate?		
A clean and comfortable look?		
Enough space indoors and out so all the children can move freely and safely?		
Enough caregivers to give attention to all of the children in care?		
Places to store personal belongings?		
Places children can play quietly?		
Enough furniture, play things and other equipment for all the children in use?		
Equipment and materials suitable for the ages of the children in care?		

	Yes	No
Enough room and cots or cribs so the children can take naps		
Enough clean bathrooms for all the children in care?		
Safety caps on electrical outlets?		
A safe place to store medications, cleaners, etc.?		
An alternate exit in case of fire?		
An Emergency Plan posted to follow in emergencies?		
An outdoor play area that is safe and free of litter?		
Enough heat, light and ventilation?		
Nutritious meals and snacks made with food you want your child to eat?		
A first aid kit?		
Fire extinguishers?		
Smoke detectors?		
For Infants or Toddlers	Yes	No
A clean and safe place to change diapers, sanitized after each use?		
For Preschoolers	Yes	No
A stepstool in the bathroom so preschoolers can reach the sink and toilet?		
For School-Age Children	Yes	No
A quiet place to do homework?		
Appropriate games and activities?		
Are There Opportunities:		
For All Children	Yes	No
To play quietly and actively, indoors and out?		
To play alone at times and with friends at other times?		
To follow a schedule that meets young children's need for routine but is flexible enough to meet the needs of each child?		
To use materials and equipment that help children learn new physical skills and to control and exercise their muscles?		
To learn to get along, to share and to respect themselves and others?		
To learn about their own and others' cultures through art, music, books, songs, games and other activities?		
For Infants or Toddlers	Yes	No
To play with objects and toys that help infants develop their senses of touch, sight and hearing?		
To take part in a variety of activities suited to toddlers' short attention spans?		

For Preschoolers	Yes	No
To play with many different toys and equipment that enable preschoolers to use their imaginations?		
To choose their own activities for at least part of the day?		
For School-Age Children	Yes	No
To practice their skills?		
To be with their friends after school?		
To do homework?		
To use a variety of materials and equipment, including art materials, table games, sports equipment and books?		

For information on Pennsylvania's Day Care Regulations contact:

**North Central Region
Office of Child Development and Early Learning**

Harrisburg

P.O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, PA 17105
Telephone: (717) 772-7078
Toll Free: (800) 222-2117
Fax: (717) 705-8233

Scranton

100 Lackawanna Avenue
Scranton State Office Bldg.
Scranton, PA 18503
Telephone: (570) 963-4371
Toll Free: (800) 222-2108
Fax: (800) 963-3006