

Choosing quality



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Selecting child care is an important decision as it can impact the growth and development of your child. Use the following questions to guide your search.

Professionalism

- Does program staff have First Aid, CPR, child abuse prevention, health &

safety, and/or other training certificates?

- Does the program show a commitment to ongoing quality improvement by being involved in a state recognized Quality Rating and Improvement System or Early Quality Matters program?
- Is program staff involved in

professional development trainings, workshops, peer mentoring, and/or coaching?

- Has the program received or is the program in the process of receiving national accreditation?

- Does program staff have college coursework in early childhood education and development?
- Has program staff obtained California Child Development Permits?

“Is the program staff responsive to each child; do they adapt their approach in order to best meet the unique needs of each child?”

Family Engagement

- Does the program have a policies and procedures document or a family handbook?
- Does the program have an open door policy?
- Does the program welcome family ideas and involvement?
- Does the program involve families/caregivers in their child's progress using a developmental screening tool?

Activities

- Does the program have a daily schedule or program activity plan? This may include both teacher and child directed activities.
- Do activities support group interaction and individual opportunities?

Does the program include:

- Art
- Music
- Physical activity
- Cultural activities
- Exposure to nature
- Language & literacy
- Math concepts

Environment, Health, & Safety

- Does the program exceed child care environmental rating standards?
- Does the program have an emergency disaster preparedness plan?
- Does the program maintain appropriate adult to child ratios?
- Are the materials available to children developmentally appropriate?
- If the program serves food, does it meet USDA child nutrition guidelines?

Philosophy

- Does the program's mission and goals match what you are looking for?
- Is the program staff responsive to each child; do they adapt their approach in order to best meet the unique needs of each child?

Logistics

- Do the program's hours of operation and location meet your needs?

Know Your Child

Visiting in person with your child is one of the best ways to assess a child care program. While there are universal standards, not all children are

the same and one size does not fit all. Consider your child and what would be the most appropriate fit for their unique personality and needs.

For more information you can review the files of licensed childcare programs through Community Care Licensing 1-844-Let-Us-No (1-844-538-8766) or www.ccl.ca.gov. Contact your local Child Care Resource & Referral agency to learn more about different types of child care and financial assistance. Sierra Nevada Children's Services (530.272.8866) serves Sierra and Nevada counties, Placer County Office of Education – Early Childhood Education (530.745.1380) serves Placer county.

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