



**OTHER POINTS TO PONDER ...**  
**WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU?**

Does the program include?

- Dance
- Music
- Art Activities
- Gardening
- Cooking
- Special Events (parades, senior home visits, etc.)
- Field Trips (day at the public pool, museums, etc.)
- Exposure to Animals
- Exposure to Nature (trail hikes, trips to the park, etc.)
- Religious or Cultural Celebrations



Notes:

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Sierra Nevada  
**Children's  
 Services**

*investing in our community, one family at a time*

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**Choosing  
 quality child care ...**



**shouldn't be a leap  
 of faith ...**

**Let**



Sierra Nevada  
**Children's  
 Services**

**Help!**



# Checklist for Finding



## ENVIRONMENT

- Are the proper child/adult ratios followed? ([www.cclid.ca.gov](http://www.cclid.ca.gov))
- Are there separate areas for diapering, napping and play?
- Is the place clean and well maintained?
- Is there adequate ventilation, temperature control and lighting (preferably some natural light coming from windows)?
- Are there enough toys and educational materials (are they safe and in good working order; is there a variety)?
- Are there pictures and other materials displayed for the children (is work done by the children displayed)?
- Are the toys washed and disinfected regularly? Are toys in good condition (e.g., look for sharp edges, broken toys) and are they age appropriate?
- Are there indoor and outdoor play areas (are they safe)?



- Is there an emergency plan (fire/earthquake drills, alternative safe location, a first aid kit and working fire extinguisher handy)?
- Use the note section below to capture how the environment feels. Do you hear calm respectful voices? Do you see teachers interacting with the children?

## PROGRAM

- What is the daily routine? Are age appropriate activities planned? Is every child expected to take a nap?
- What are the hours of operation?
- What are the rates? And what is included (meals, diapers, field trips, additional activities, transportation to field trips, transportation to and from school, etc.)?
- How does the provider handle sick children?
- Does the childcare provider have a qualified substitute or backup caregiver readily available?
- Is the site/facility accredited or working towards it? ([www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org) [www.nafcc.org](http://www.nafcc.org))
- What kinds of meals are served? Can special diets be accommodated? Is the food healthy?
- Can children with special needs be accommodated?
- What is the current enrollment and what is the general turnover rate with families?
- How much exposure do the children have to the television or computer?
- How does the provider handle discipline?

Notes:

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## PROVIDER

- Are all caregivers certified in CPR and First Aid?
- What is the providers' educational background? Do they have Child Development knowledge/education?
- Is the provider licensed? ([www.cclid.ca.gov](http://www.cclid.ca.gov))
- Does the provider belong to any professional organizations?
- How long have they been a child care professional? Do they have a list of parent references?
- How long has their staff been working here?
- How often do the staff have development opportunities?
- Use the note section below to capture if you see evidence that the philosophy of the school/program matches the curriculum.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- What is the communication policy with parents? (Menus are posted, daily report given either verbal/written, parent phoned if there are issues).
- Are there opportunities for parent participation?
- Are parents welcome to make unannounced visits?

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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