



Checklist for Finding

QUALITY CHILD CARE



ENVIRONMENT

- Are the proper child/adult ratios followed? (www.cclcd.ca.gov).
- Are there separate areas for diapering, napping and play?
- Is the space 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 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 notes section to capture how the environment feels. Do you hear calm respectful voices? Do you see teachers interacting with the children?

Notes: _____

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 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: _____



PROVIDER

- Are all caregivers certified in CPR and First Aid?
- What is the provider's educational background; do they have Child Development knowledge and education?
- Is the provider licensed? (www.cclcd.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 there?
- How often do the staff have development opportunities?

Use the note section to capture evidence that the philosophy of the school/program matches the curriculum.

Notes: _____

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: _____

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.)
- Exposure to Animals
- Exposure to Nature (trail hikes, trips to the park, etc.)
- Religious or Cultural Celebrations



Notes: _____



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OUR HISTORY:

SIERRA NEVADA CHILDREN'S SERVICES IS A PRIVATE, COMMUNITY-BASED NONPROFIT CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCY THAT HAS SERVED FAMILIES, EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS AND THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1978.



Are you interested in seeing if a facility meets licensing standards?
 Call Community Care Licensing at:
 916.263.5744

Choosing Quality Child Care

➤ ➤ ➤ Shouldn't be a leap of faith



➤ ➤ ➤ **WE CAN HELP**