

# Top 25 Questions and Observations when looking for Quality Childcare

## *15 Questions to ask when seeking Quality Childcare for your child:*

- How long have you been a provider?
- What are the qualifications and work experience of the center staff who will care for my child?
- Is your facility licensed by the state?
- What is your philosophy on discipline?
- Am I able to drop in at any time?
- Do you have at least 3 references?
- Is your program accredited?
- Do you encourage parents to participate in program planning and events?
- Are there daily opportunities for free play? (quiet, active, indoor and outdoor)
- Do the activities promote growth in different areas of development? (physical, social, emotional, verbal skills, cognitive ability, and creativity)
- How do you encourage good behavior?
- What will my child do all day?
- What kind of food and drink will you provide?
- Where will my child rest?
- What are the ages of the other children my child will interact with?
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## *10 Things to look for when visiting a possible center for your child:*

- Is the physical environment a bright, colorful, inviting place?
- Are the toys and materials plentiful, age appropriate and in good repair?
- Do caregivers interact one-on-one with the children in a warm and responsive way?
- Are the children calm, safe and happy?
- Do children play and talk together?
- Are the staff listening to children and answering them carefully?
- Does the staff join in with what the children are doing?
- Can children plan some activities themselves?
- Are the toys and equipment clean and ready for the children to use?
- Are the premises clean, well-kept and safe for children? (inside and outside)

### *Tips for parents:*

*\*Always check references*

*\*Ask for names of other parents to talk to about a particular center*

*\*Listen to your child to find out if he or she seems unhappy*

*\*Always trust your own feelings about your childcare—you know your child best.*