

QUALITY CHILD CARE CHECKLIST:

What to look for in a quality child care program

When visiting a program, ask these questions.
Your answers to these questions should be “yes.”

Facility:

- Is the provider certified by the Department of Public Welfare and is it posted?
- Does the provider participate in Keystone STARS?
- Are there appropriate toys and materials for children of all age groups?
- Does the provider encourage you to drop in and visit at any time/

Staff:

- Does staff communicate daily with parents about their child’s progress?
- Does staffing allow for each child to receive individual attention?
- Does staff sit and read to the children?
- Does staff seem patient and receptive to children’s needs?
- Is staff respectful of children?
- Is staff respectful of parents?
- Does staff encourage children’s sharing, manners, and other good behaviors?
- Does staff appear lively, smiling and interacting in a positive manner with the children?
- Does staff involve children in daily learning activities?

Safety:

- Does the facility appear orderly and clean?
- Are hazardous materials locked away?
- Is there an emergency plan and is it posted?
- Are there security measures in place?
- Is there a policy for sick children and other circumstances?

Children:

- Do the children have a consistent routine that they can understand and follow?
- Do the children seem occupied and engaged?
- Are the children involved in activities that promote learning?
- Is there a policy on discipline?
- Do the children seem happy?

Feelings:

- Is your initial reaction upon entering the site a positive one?
- Is this a place my child would enjoy?
- Would my child be safe here?
- Would I/we feel comfortable using this program?
- Would my child learn new things every day at this program?