






CHILD CARE CHECKLIST

Choosing a child care program is an important decision and can set the stage for the first five years of development. Things to consider include level of quality, location, cost, and the different types of care environments such as child care centers or programs operated from providers' homes known as family child care.

4C for Children can make your search easier. The following checklist is a tool we offer to help you choose a quality learning environment for your child. If possible visit several programs and use the checklist questions as an interview resource. The boxes following each question provide space for you to record if programs meet the listed criteria and then compare programs.



Child Care Program

| | #1 | #2 | #3 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Health, Safety and Nutrition | | | |
| Is hand washing a regular part of the program's practice for both caregivers and children, especially before eating and after using the bathroom? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If the program serves food, does it meet nutritional standards?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are individual cribs or cots used for sleeping?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are caregivers trained in CPR and First Aid and is their certification current?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are there medical plans with emergency contacts in place?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are medications, cleaning supplies and other toxic materials out of the reach of children? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If the program transports children, are all safety guidelines followed?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Infants: Are infants always placed on their backs to sleep? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Infants: Are sleep spaces kept free of soft objects, toys, crib bumpers and loose bedding? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Infants: Are infants fed on demand and held while bottle feeding? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |






 Ask a staff member.

Learn More







Contact 4C for Children to receive a child care referral or to learn more about resources for families.

513-758-1330 Southwest Ohio
937-220-9660 x1330 Miami Valley

www.4cforchildren.org/families

| | Child Care Program | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | #1 | #2 | #3 |
| Environment | | | |
| Is the setting clean, cheerful and safe? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are there different areas for resting, quiet play and active play? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are there pictures displayed at the child's eye level? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are there enough toys and learning materials for all children? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are materials and equipment in good condition? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do the materials change based on the needs and interests of the children?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are there a variety of age-appropriate books available? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is outdoor play offered daily, weather permitting?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is the outdoor play area clean, safe and inviting? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If technology such as a TV or computer is used, is screen time educational and time limited?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Caregiver-Child Interactions | | | |
| Do caregivers and children enjoy being together? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are the caregivers warm and nurturing and are children comforted when needed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do the caregivers get down on children's level to talk to them and seem genuinely interested in what children are doing? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do caregivers play with children to help facilitate their learning?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are children provided choices in the activities they do?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

 Ask a staff member.

| | Child Care Program | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | #1 | #2 | #3 |
| Programming | | | |
| Is the program quality rated?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does the program follow a certain teaching philosophy or use a curriculum?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does the program share information with me about my child's daily activities?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does the program track individual child progress to support school readiness?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are there opportunities for family participation?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are there set sleep schedules in comfortable and quiet areas?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you feel like the caregiver will listen to and address your questions and concerns? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Continued on back panel.

