



The Child Care Tour Checklist

What to ask & what to look for when choosing care for your child

Remember: a license is only the minimum a place needs to open its doors. The real quality you find by asking good questions, watching the room, and trusting your gut.

RATIOS & GROUP SIZE

- ☐ How many children per caregiver in my child's room? *aim ~1:4 babies · 1:6 toddlers · 1:10 preschool*
- ☐ How many children are in the group in total?

THE PEOPLE

- ☐ How long have the caregivers in this room been here?
- ☐ What is your staff turnover like?
- ☐ What training and qualifications do the caregivers have?

HOW THEY CARE

- ☐ How do you comfort a child who is crying or having a hard time?
- ☐ What is your approach to discipline and guidance?
- ☐ How often are diapers checked and changed? *standard: at least every 2 hours, and right away when wet*

HEALTH & SAFETY

- ☐ May I see where the children nap, eat, and play? Are the spaces clean and safe?
- ☐ What are your illness, medication, allergy, and emergency policies?
- ☐ Is there a written safe-sleep policy?

OPENNESS & COMMUNICATION

- ☐ Can I drop in unannounced?
- ☐ How will you keep me updated on my child's day?

LICENSING & ACCREDITATION

- ☐ Are you licensed? May I see your most recent inspection report?
- ☐ Are you accredited? If not, what quality standards do you follow? *NAEYC for centers · NAFCC for home care*

WATCH THE ROOM (not the brochure)

- ☐ Are the children engaged and relaxed, or restless and left alone?
- ☐ Do caregivers get down to children's level and use their names?
- ☐ Does the room feel warm and calm?
- ☐ My gut says: _____

You're not choosing the prettiest room. You're choosing who will love your child the way you do when you're not there.