







<http://www.thenewparentsguide.com/choosing-a-day-care-center.htm>



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| <p>1 Reputation: The references you talk to should be very happy with the center. If they are unsure or have doubt, you probably will too.</p> |  | | | |
| <p>2 Caring and qualified staff: The staff should be enthusiastic and interact with the children in a positive way that shows they really care. The staff should have a philosophy about discipline, feeding and sleeping that follows your philosophy. The employees should be educated with at least two years of college, a background in child development, along with first aid training and knowledge of CPR.</p> |  | | | |
| <p>3 Safe, clean facility: A good center has floors, walls, bathrooms, kitchen and changing stations that are clean, well lit, and ventilated. There should be established policies on how to keep things clean, when and how often hands are washed, and how to keep toys and equipment in safe working order. The center should have an emergency plan, with first aid kits, fire extinguishers, and childproof storage areas. All general child safety issues should be followed.</p> |  | | | |
| <p>4 Established rules and policies: A good center will be flexible but it should follow set hours, have enforced rules on sick children, and will require checkups and immunizations to prevent the spread of illness. The center should have an open door policy that allows you to stop for a visit unannounced. If they don't have this policy, they might be hiding something.</p> |  | | | |
| <p>5 A complete schedule of activities: Good centers will have a schedule that allows for playtime, quiet time, individual activities, meals, snacks, and group activities. One thing that should not be included in a good schedule is TV and videos. A good center teaches a wide variety of topics, while at the same time, teaching things appropriate for the age group. Also look for toys that are appropriate for the age of your child. These toys should be fun, while letting the child be imaginative and creative.</p> |  | | | |
| <p>6 A current license: While a license doesn't guarantee the center will work for you, the center should be licensed by your local city services department. Also look and see if the center is accredited by the <u>National Association for the Education of Young Children</u>.</p> |  | | | |