



**QUALITY
STARTOC**

Our kids, our community, our future

Choosing a Quality Provider

Child Care Checklist

- The provider/staff is open and welcoming to me and to my child.
- She/he smiles and looks directly at me and my child.
- The caregiver's environment is safe and stimulating.
- The caregiver speaks to children in a positive, cheerful tone.
- The caregiver seems to enjoy working with children.
- I can visit the caregiver/program anytime during hours of operation.
- I feel my child will thrive both mentally and physically with this caregiving situation.
- The caregiver has training and experience working with children who are my child's age.
- Meals provided are age-appropriate, nutritious, and attractive to the child.
- My philosophy, values, and discipline techniques closely resemble those of the caregiver.
- There is enough space indoors and out so that the children can move about freely.
- The program offers activities that my child will enjoy and that are right for his/her age.
- Children are encouraged to be creative and to explore new things.
- The rooms are comfortable, interesting, and cheerful.
- There is adequate lighting, heating, and ventilation.
- I can communicate easily and openly with the caregiver.
- Information about my child's progress and behavior will be shared with me.
- I have been introduced to all the adults who will be providing care for my child.
- The caregiver has offered to give me parent references.
- I have contacted Community Care Licensing and/or TrustLine to check on the previous history of the caregiver. Call 1-800-KIDS-793 for your local Community Care Licensing or 1-916-229-4500. TrustLine may be reached at 1-800-822-8420.
- All equipment is safe and in good working condition.
- Medicines, poisons, firearms, knives, and cleaning chemicals are stored away out of the children's reach. Wall outlets are covered. Stairways have non-pressure safety gates. Window-blind cords are up high, away from any sleeping or play areas.
- There is a working fire extinguisher and recently tested smoke alarms.
- The caregiver is certified in pediatric CPR and first aid.
- I understand the policies of the caregiver. There is something in writing that explains the business side of the child care arrangement.
- I have a back-up plan in case my child or caregiver is ill or an emergency arises.
- I have emergency numbers and a medical release on hand with the caregiver.
- I understand all the costs involved with the caregiver. I have asked about extra expenses, such as late fees, supplies, field trips, food, formula, and diapers. I know how much I should pay each month.
- I feel comfortable that I can leave my child with this caregiver and that my child will be safe, happy, and loved.