



# QUALITY STARTOC

*Our kids, our community, our future*

## Choosing a Quality Provider

### Questions to Ask Providers

#### Caregiver/Teacher:

- Can the provider provide references from families they have served?
- Is the caregiver/teacher licensed?
- Is the caregiver patient with parents who find it difficult to separate from their children?
- Does the caregiver enjoy being with children?
- Does the caregiver hug, rock, cuddle, talk, and sing to the children?
- Is the caregiver knowledgeable about child development stages and trained in early childhood education?
- Does the caregiver respect your family's values and culture?
- Does the caregiver regularly inform you about how your child is doing?
- Are you comfortable communicating with the provider about your child's needs?

#### The environment:

- Is the home or facility clean and safe?
- Is the home or facility cheerful and interesting but not overstimulating?
- Are there separate areas for diapering, sleeping, resting, and exploring?
- Is there adequate indoor and outdoor space for children?

#### The program:

- What is the adult-to-child ratio?
- Does the center have a high staff turnover?
- Are there opportunities for staff to learn more about early childhood education?
- Are there opportunities for parents to get involved?
- Is information shared about how you can support your child's learning at home?
- Is transportation to and from school provided?
- Does the provider's discipline method match yours?
- What is the daily routine? Is it too rigid? Too relaxed?
- Do children have a balance of indoor and outdoor time?
- Are the activities and materials age appropriate?
- Are there plenty of clean materials and a variety of items for your child to play with?
- When applicable, how does the provider accommodate children with special needs?