



Child Care Checklist

Program's Name: _____ Date: _____

Director's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Location: _____

Hours of Operation: _____ Cost: _____

1. Supervision/Health/Safety (Will my child be safe and well taken care of?)

Yes	No	
		Are children watched at all times, including when they are sleeping?
		Is the outside play area designed for specific age groups?
		Does the playground appear safe and well-maintained?
		Are staff members warm and welcoming?
		Does the staff pay individual attention to each child?

2. Program Administration (Is the program well managed?)

Yes	No	
		Does the program have any deficiencies with the Department of Social Services? (scchildcare.org)
		Will the same people take care of my child regularly?
		Will my child stay in a classroom for at least one year?

3. Learning Environment (Will my child be able to grow and learn?)

Yes	No	
		Are there specific areas for different kinds of play (such as blocks, puzzles, dramatic play, science, and books)?
		Are there planned activities to help my child problem-solve and reason?
		Is the room organized with space for play and are the materials easy to reach and use?
		Does the staff smile, talk to, and listen to children frequently?

4. Behavior Management (Is age-appropriate discipline used?)

Yes	No	
		Does the staff set limits that are reasonable, clear, consistent and age-appropriate?
		Are clear and simple safety rules established with the children?
		Does the staff focus on the positive and redirect behavior with calm voices rather than yelling, spanking, or using other negative punishments?
		Does the program have a discipline policy?
		Does the program allow corporal punishment?

5. Parent Engagement (Does the program work closely with parents?)

Yes	No	
		Will I be welcome to visit my child's classroom at any time?
		Will there be daily communication between staff and parents?
		Are annual conferences held with parents?
		Is parent feedback sought and used in making program improvements?

6. Staff Qualifications (Are the adults educated in early childhood care and education?)

Yes	No	
		Does the director have a degree and some experience in caring for children?
		Do the teachers have a credential or an early childhood-related degree and experience caring for children?
		Does the program participate in early childhood initiatives?

7. Additional Comments/Observations