

## Evaluating Child Care Programs

Here is a general checklist of things to look for when evaluating the quality of a particular child care program. For more information, additional checklists, or other resources, please contact the Referral Department at 585-654-4720.

### Experience/References

- Providers have completed the required NYS training hours
- Referrals and references are provided
- Child Care Centers employ staff with appropriate educational requirements

### Child Indicators

- Children in the program are visibly happy
- Provider competently meets the needs of each individual child
- Provider treats your child in a manner that you are comfortable with

### Discipline Indicators

- Discipline policy is fair, effective and consistent with your own
- You agree with how the children are disciplined by the provider

### Program Specifics

The program should:

- Provide parents with a schedule of activities
- Provide parents with a menu if food is served
- Be authorized to administer prescription medication if your child needs it
- Greet each child and family at the start/end of each day
- Offer a variety of activities for the children
- Have a variety of toys for children of all ages
- Have a napping policy with sufficient space for each child

### Health & Safety

- Dangerous materials must be stored out of reach of children
- There should be outlet covers in all electrical outlets
- Children and caregivers should wash hands frequently
- Diapers should be changed at appropriate intervals
- There should be a working phone
- Emergencies like fire and injuries are planned for
- Facility and all surfaces (including toys) are kept clean
- Program follows all required ratios of adults to children and group size

### Fees

- Inquire about any fees that may be required when a child is not present or when the program is closed.
- If needed, find out if subsidy payments are accepted.



### **Additional Indicators of Quality Child Care**

- Continuity of care – maintaining the relationships that children form with caregivers
- Constant communication between children, families, and caregivers
- Family involvement (parental open door policy and opportunities to participate in field trips)
- Developmentally appropriate programs for every child
- Balance of active, quiet, indoor, and outdoor play based on the abilities and interests of the children

For information on **Summer Camps** and what parents should know, visit the Department of Health Website: <http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/3601/>.

