



How To Choose An Amazing Childcare Center

Presented by
Holly Springs School For Early Education





1. Training, Licensing, Credentials, and Accreditation

A well-educated and experienced staff will provide high quality interactions and activities for your child. Make sure to ask the following questions when looking at a childcare center:

- Does the director have experience caring for children?
- Who is on staff? Is there a place to view staff biographies?
- How is the staff screened?
- Does each staff member have the right credentials and experience?
- Does someone have current CPR and first aid training?
- How does the childcare center conduct its own training on an ongoing basis?
- Does the staff continue to receive training about the changes in childcare industry?



2. The Facility

Make sure to inspect the layout of the facility for cleanliness and organization.

Is the layout open for children to play and crawl?

Also, look for cleanliness and ask about the daily cleaning routine.

Does the facility have an outside cleaning crew/company coming in at night to clean the center?



3. Equipment, Toys and Learning Tools and Instruments

There should be a variety of toys and learning tools and instruments for kids of every age. Make sure to ask about any sports or playground equipment and look at the condition of each to make sure they are safe and age appropriate.



4. Drop-ins by Parents

You should always feel welcome to visit your child. There should be limited restrictions regarding when you want to see your child during the day.



5. Recommendations by Others

One of the best ways to measure the quality of a childcare center is by asking other parents for a referral. Does the center have a good percentage of children enrolled who were referred by other parents? Ask other enrolled parents about the experience their children are having and inquire if they are satisfied with the quality of service.

Check for parent testimonials on the center’s website to hear what enrolled families are saying.

Does the center do an annual parent survey to get parent feedback?

If so, can you see the results of these surveys to know what existing parents are feeling?



6. Staff Turnover

High staff turnover can negatively affect your child.

Young children thrive on consistency.

The constant turnover of staff members interrupts a child’s schedule and routine.

Building a trusting relationship with someone and having consistency helps make your child’s day go much easier.



7. Cost

Cost structures of childcare centers vary. Some charge by the week, while others charge a monthly fee. Childcare centers can have a sliding scale that bases fees by income. A childcare center may also offer a discount if you enroll more than one child. Make sure to clarify exactly how a child center will charge you, determine any discounts you may qualify for, and compare tuition rates with similar centers in the area.



8. Safety & Security

Inquire about how medicines, cleaning supplies, and other poisonous materials are stored. Ask if the center has secure doors, strong safety gates, and a plan in case of disasters. Also, ask each childcare center to explain who has access to the facility and how people can leave and enter the building. Does the center have a security keypad at the entrance to discourage strangers from entering? What kind of log in and log out process do they have?



9. Parent Handbook

Every childcare center should have policies and procedures in place. Before choosing a center, make sure to ask for a parent handbook and look through it. A parent handbook should have all the childcare center's policies and procedures. Anything a parent needs to know should be in the handbook. If a childcare center does not have a parent handbook, then you may not know what is going on.



10. Curriculum

Familiarize yourself with each childcare center's curriculum. Ask each center how it prepares children for school. Are the teachers required to create a lesson plan for their class? Ask about the reasoning behind the chosen curriculum and its advantages. Compare the different curriculums to each other and decide which one would benefit your child the most. The time your child spends each day at the childcare center will help to establish a lifetime foundation and enthusiasm for learning.

Thank You!

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