

Choosing Child Care Checklist

1. Learn about the Services and Policies

- Determine the services provided.
- Ask to see the license.
- Review the parent handbook and contract.

2. Observe the Program and Ask Questions

- Check for a safe and nurturing environment.
- Count the number of children/adults.
- Meet the caregiver(s) who will be with your child.
- Imagine your child in the environment.
- Observe the children.

3. Make Your Decision

- Ask for references.
- Check the licensing complaint history.
- Call Community Care Licensing at (408) 324-2148 for information about licensed family child care homes and licensed child care centers.
- Consider your instincts.

4. Evaluate and Re-Evaluate

- After enrolling your child, continue to evaluate your decision.
- Call the Child Development Resource Center for further assistance.
- Evaluate after your child has been in a program 4–8 weeks.