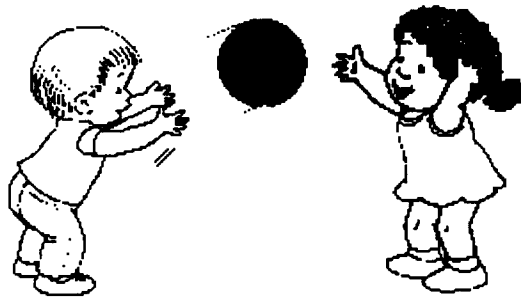


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# Looking for child care?



## Capital District Child Care Coordinating Council

- Phone #: 426-7181
- Web page: [www.cdccc.org](http://www.cdccc.org)
- Address: 91 Broadway Menands 12204
- Use the following questionnaire for interviews with prospective child care providers.

## A Parent's Day Care Checklist

Name of Center or Family Day Care Provider \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date Visited \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: When you visit a child care program, take this checklist with you. Place a check mark in the "yes" or "no" column for each item you observe. Compare the results of your checklists for each program you visit to see which program has the greatest number of checks in the "yes" column.

### FIRST IMPRESSIONS

#### Y--N

- Is the program licensed or registered? (Refer to Types of Care)
- Is the program accredited or caregiver credentialed by a national association?
- Are parents encouraged to visit unexpectedly to observe the program?
- Can the caregiver/teacher provide you with the names of other parents who have used the program?
- Do you think the caregiver/teacher enjoys caring for children and has a sense of enthusiasm?
- Do you hear the sounds of happy children?
- Will you feel good about leaving your child at this program?

### CAREGIVERS/TEACHERS

#### Y--N

- Does the caregiver/teacher have experience in working with children and a background in early childhood education?
- Does the caregiver/teacher receive on-going professional training in child development, CPR, First Aid, etc.
- Does the caregiver/teacher affiliate with local and/or national professional associations?
- Does the caregiver/teacher get down to the level of the children and actively engage in activities with them?
- Do the children receive individual attention and answers to their questions in ways which they can understand?
- Do staff members work cooperatively with each other?
- Does the caregiver/teacher help the children feel good about themselves and teach them to be considerate of others?
- Does the caregiver/teacher praise and encourage the children and stress their strengths and accomplishments?

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **Y--N**

- Is the atmosphere bright, ventilated, and free of hazards?
- Are all toxic materials stored in locked areas?
- Are smoke detectors and fire extinguishers installed in appropriate areas?
- Are fire drill, evacuation procedures, and emergency phone numbers posted?
- Are current medical records and emergency information maintained for each child?
- Are there different areas for resting, quiet play, and active play?
- Is there enough space inside and out so that all children can have room to play?
- Can the children reach the toilets and sinks easily?
- Are toys clean, safe, and within reach of the children?
- Is there a special area where a sick or distressed child can rest and receive individual attention?
- Is the food preparation and eating area clean?

## **ACTIVITIES AND EQUIPMENT**

### **Y--N**

- Are activities balanced between vigorous outdoor play and quiet indoor activities?
- Are children given the opportunity to choose activities of interest to them?
- Do children have a place for their personal belongings?
- Is there an adequate supply of blocks, large climbing equipment, riding toys, and dramatic play props to foster physical development and imaginative play?
- Are there adequate hands-on materials such as sand, clay, water and paint to stimulate creativity?
- Is there a variety of puzzles, building toys, and other small manipulatives?
- Are there musical instruments and opportunities for movement experiences?

## **PROGRAM**

### **Y--N**

- Do you agree with the discipline practices?
- Does the caregiver/teacher seem happy to meet your child?
- Is there a daily schedule of activities?
- Does the program have written policies about fees, hours, holidays, illness, etc.?
- Will parents be provided with regular information about their child's activities and progress?
- Are there ways for parents to get involved in discussing policies and making suggestions about the program?
- Are the children supervised during naptime?
- Are meals and snacks nutritious and well planned?
- Does the caregiver/teacher respect families from varying cultures and backgrounds?
- Does the caregiver/teacher plan for visitors and field trips?