



PROGRAM CHECKLIST

A Guide for Quality Care for Your Baby

Choosing a child care program for your baby and your family is one of the most important decisions you'll make as a new parent. The process may seem overwhelming, and you may be uncertain of what questions to ask or what to look for. To help, a group of new and expecting parents have created a list of suggested questions to ask your potential child care provider.

What to Ask:

- Will my baby be held a lot and have lots of “conversation” and physical nurturing? How will that happen without a one-to-one ratio? What if my baby cries?
- What kind of experience and training will the teachers in my baby's room have? How do I know that they will be loving, competent, and caring people? How long have the caregivers been at the center?
- What precautions have been taken to limit the spread of germs?
- How will I know what my baby's schedule — feeding, sleeping, and diapering — has been for the day?
- Will I get an update of what my baby has done that day? How will you communicate with me so I don't miss any milestones?
- How do you manage such a wide range of ages/abilities in one classroom?

What to Look for:

- Does the center have a secure entrance?
- Are all families and visitors greeted?
- Do the children seem happy and comfortable in the classroom?
- Do the teachers seem happy and engaged with the children?



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My Baby's Day

	PROGRAM 1	PROGRAM 2	BRIGHT HORIZONS
Will you adjust to my baby's schedule or are all of the babies on the same schedule?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will you take the babies outside every day?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do the babies get tummy time each day?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there time set aside each day to hold a baby, sit him on a teacher's lap, have cuddle time, etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there enrichments for infants, such as storytellers, musicians, sign language, etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can I call or visit any time I want?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can I bring items from home, including blankets and stuffed animals, to comfort my baby?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Health and Hygiene

	PROGRAM 1	PROGRAM 2	BRIGHT HORIZONS
Is the center professionally cleaned?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are paper sheets put down and gloves worn during diaper changing? Are diapers, wipes, and diaper cream labeled for each child?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you clean the toys after they have been in a child's mouth?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all teachers CPR/first aid certified?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you label/mark breast milk and formula? Can I bring frozen breast milk?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Caregiver

	PROGRAM 1	PROGRAM 2	BRIGHT HORIZONS
Will she have one primary caregiver or many different teachers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are teachers involved in a continuing education program, including monthly, quarterly, and annual training?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do teachers have access to educational resources (e.g., curriculum guides, activity books, and professional journals)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are teachers involved in an annual system of performance evaluation and goal setting?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there an opportunity for formal feedback through a parent satisfaction survey?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Parent Support

	PROGRAM 1	PROGRAM 2	BRIGHT HORIZONS
Is there a process for preparing my baby and me for our first day at the center?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a nursing room or a quiet place to nurse a baby?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you provide crib sheets, bibs, diapers, etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a system for answering or addressing my questions or concerns?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you offer any parent education? Is there a parent information area or bulletin board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there opportunities for parents to meet as a group?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

General Things to Look For

	PROGRAM 1	PROGRAM 2	BRIGHT HORIZONS
Do you feel comfortable with the primary caregiver for your child? You will be working together with this teacher to create a positive experience for your child. It is important that you feel you can have a good, open relationship.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the room sound and smell pleasant?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the center feel comfortable when you walk in (reception by staff/administration team, interactions between staff and parents, staff and children, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do the teachers seem happy together? Do they work well together?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a variety of materials and toys — including natural and everyday home materials — for babies of all ages to explore?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are indoor and outdoor environments child-sized and designed specially for children of all developmental abilities and needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you see evidence of reading to infants and toddlers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are children happily and busily engaged in interesting and diverse activities and projects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you see displays of what the children are doing and learning?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the program accredited by, or does it meet the standards set by, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the program actively involved in the community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>