



Child Care Quality Checklist

Choosing a child care or preschool program for your child is one of the most important decisions you'll make as a parent. Excellent early learning programs help children grow, develop, and learn the skills that prepare them for kindergarten.

Quality is the key to making sure your child gets a quality start. When you are looking for an early learning program for your child, use this list of questions as a checklist to help you choose a quality program!

PROGRAM NAME: _____



Teachers are...

- Caring** – Teachers speak to children at their eye level and are calm when a child is upset
- Attentive** – Each teacher supervises no more than 12 children or 4 infants (the fewer, the better)
- Qualified** – Ask the director: What are your teachers' educational backgrounds? How often do teachers attend trainings?



Learning is...

- Fun** – Children smile, talk to one another, and look like they're happy to be there
- Planned** – Ask the teacher: How do you prepare daily lessons?
- Observed** – Ask the teacher: How do you measure students' learning and growth?



Classroom environment is...

- Welcoming** – Children’s photos and artwork decorate the walls of the classroom
- Engaging** – There are a lot of books, vocabulary words, and educational images around the room
- Safe** – Ask the teacher: Can you tell me about your emergency procedures?



Health is...

- Assessed** – Ask the director: Do you screen children for developmental and health concerns?
- Monitored** – Ask the teacher: What is your policy for sick children? When do children wash their hands?



Program is...

- Parent-friendly** – Ask the director: Do you have a parent handbook? How can parents be involved in your program?
- Licensed** – Ask the director: When was your last visit from Community Care Licensing?
- Rated** – Ask the director: Do you participate in Quality Start, Riverside County’s quality rating and improvement system?

NOTES:



To learn more, visit:
www.qualitystartrc.org or
call (800) 266-3880