



Checklist for Finding Quality Care

Las Vegas Urban League
Early Childhood Connection
Connecting Kids with a Network of Resources



Caregivers / Teachers

- Caregivers / teachers seem to really like children.
- Caregivers / teachers kneel down to the children's level when speaking to them.
- Children are greeted when they arrive.
- Children's needs are quickly met, even when things are busy.
- Caregivers / teachers are trained in CPR, first aid, communicable disease, and early childhood education.
- Caregivers / teachers are current on their continuing education requirements (15 hours per year).
- Caregivers / teachers are always ready to answer your questions.
- Caregivers / teachers tell you what your child is doing every day.
- Parents' ideas are welcomed and incorporated in the setting.
- Caregivers / teachers and children enjoy being together.
- There is enough staff to serve the children (low staff to child ratio).
- Guidance is clear and fair and not physical or demeaning.
- Caregivers / teachers respond to individual needs of children.
- Caregivers / teachers are respectful of different cultures.

Activities

- There is a daily balance of play time, activity time, & nap time.
- The activities are appropriate for the child's age.
- There are enough toys & materials for the number of children.
- Toys are clean, safe, and within the reach of children.

Health, Safety & Environment

- The atmosphere is bright and pleasant.
- There is a fenced outdoor area with a variety of safe equipment.
- There are different areas for quiet play, active play, and resting, with plenty of room for the number of children.
- Children are supervised at all times, even when sleeping.
- Caregiver(s) and children wash hands often, especially before eating and after using the restroom or diapering.
- Sanitation policies are written and posted (for multiple staff).
- Toys and equipment are checked for loose parts and other damage on a regular basis.
- The program has records indicating that all children are up-to-date on required immunizations.
- Program has an emergency plan in case a child is sick, injured, or lost.
- Program has a plan in case of disaster (e.g., fire, flood, earthquake) and practices the plan monthly.
- Poison control information and hotline numbers are posted.

General Considerations

- You agree with the child guidance practices
- You hear sounds of happy children and nurturing caregivers.
- Children are comforted when needed.
- The program is licensed or regulated.
- Parental involvement and unannounced visits are encouraged.