



*Who
is Caring for Your
Children?*



A
PARENTAL GUIDE TO
SAFE and NURTURING
CHILD CARE FACILITIES

Child care facilities are licensed or registered by the State of Texas and are inspected once or twice a year. It is important for parents to be able to judge a facility for themselves. It is important to know:

- * How to evaluate a facility before enrolling a child.
- * How to evaluate on a continuing basis after your child is enrolled.

Review this checklist and look for these features:

Is the staff willing to let you go through the facility to see the children's activities?

Yes ___ No ___
(Be sure to tour the entire facility inside and out.)

Are parents welcome to visit anytime?

Yes ___ No ___

The **Physical Environment** is important for the health and safety of your child. As you walk through the facility, make these observations:

Do the rooms and equipment look clean and safe?

Yes ___ No ___

Are the bathrooms and kitchen clean and sanitary?

Yes ___ No ___

Are there enough toys both indoors and out?

Yes ___ No ___

Are the toys washed or sanitized frequently?

Yes ___ No ___

Is there at least 30 square feet of space per child?

Yes ___ No ___

Do older and younger children play on the playground at the same time?

Yes ___ No ___

(Your younger child's safety is better served if older children have a separate outside time.)

**Can you see anything that might be hazardous to a child? Broken or faulty equipment?
Open heaters?**

Yes ___ No ___

In order to choose the best care for your child, you should spend an hour actually observing a caregiver's class in order to answer these questions:

Are there enough people to care for all the children?

Yes ___ No ___

Are the children supervised at all times?

Yes ___ No ___

Are there daily activities that will challenge your child, stimulate creativity and develop social skills?

Yes ___ No ___

Does the caregiver alternate quiet activities with physical activities in order to keep the children from getting bored or restless?

Yes ___ No ___

Does the caregiver appear to have well-planned and prepared activities that flow smoothly and keep children busy and happy?

Yes ___ No ___

Does the caregiver call the children by name, give hugs or praise them often?

Yes ___

No ___

Does the caregiver interact with the children?

Yes ___

No ___

Does the caregiver seem warm and understanding?

Yes ___

No ___

The caregiver will be a very important person in your child's life. Caring for a group of children is different from raising your own child. Spend a few minutes with the caregiver and ask these questions:

How long have you worked here? (A high turnover rate means your child may not receive consistent care.) _____

What kind of training do you have? _____

Do you follow a daily schedule? (Ask to see it.)

How do you handle emergencies? Is the parent called?

If you take field trips, how is transportation handled? Do the children wear tags with the facility name and address? (To protect them from strangers, a child's name should never be on the tag.)

Is there a weekly menu? (Ask to see it.)

Who is responsible for cleaning the classrooms and kitchen? (Caregivers may not give quality care for your child if they are responsible for housekeeping duties too.)

How long are children down for naps? Are they allowed to play quietly if they awake early? _____

Is TV used as a learning tool on special occasions or routinely as a time filler?



NOTES

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

Ask about the license or letter of registration. A license indicates that the facility met minimum standards when last inspected. Ask to see the last inspection report.

Ask if this facility has a license or registration certificate, and is it posted for public view.

Ask if the facility was cited for anything in the past inspection report.

After you have read this pamphlet, evaluate your answers. Put yourself in your child's place. *Is this a place where you would like to spend 8-10 hours of your day?*

If ***not***, you should:

Discuss your concerns with the caregiver or facility director.

Look for another facility for your child.

REPORT UNSAFE OR SUSPICIOUS SITUATIONS TO:

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Child Care Licensing Office
(325) 691-8100 or 1-800-252-5400
www.dfps.state.tx.us

YOUR CALL WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

For More Information Contact:

Child Care Services
500 Chestnut Street, Ste. 1100

Abilene, Texas 79602

795-4200 or 1-800-457-5633

Fax: (325) 795-4369
www.workforcesystem.org



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