



CHECKLIST for CHOOSING a QUALITY INFANT PROGRAM

The quality of early care and education has a direct impact on your baby's ability to learn and to build trusting relationships. Please use this checklist to help you make the right decision for your family.

HEALTH and SAFETY

- Does the center have a secure entrance?
- Must visitors show an I.D. and sign in?
- Can I visit at any time?
- Is staff thoroughly trained in Universal Precautions for infection control?
- Are teachers certified in Infant CPR and first aid?
- Can I nurse my baby? How do you store and label breast milk?
- Will my baby have her own crib? What is the safe sleep policy?
- Is there a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner on-call from The Children's Hospital? Does she also visit the center?
- Is the classroom easy to supervise?
- What is the emergency evacuation procedure? Do you practice it regularly?
- What is the illness policy?
- Are toys, materials and surfaces disinfected continuously?
- Is the diaper changing area safe and disinfected after each use?
- Does the teacher wash her hands and my baby's hands frequently?

THE INFANT NURSERY ENVIRONMENT

- Is there a wide variety of learning materials for babies?
- Are toys stored at my baby's level and easy to access?
- Are there cozy, quiet areas for resting?
- Is sign language used to help babies understand and express themselves?
- Is the room bright and cheerful without being overwhelming?
- Are family photos posted?
- Is there a place for individual belongings?
- Is there a curriculum for babies? How does my child learn?
- Are there individual schedules and personal care plans?
- Do babies play outside? Are there sunny as well as shaded areas?
- Are babies talked to, read to, and sung to?
- Does the program support early literacy?
- What program assessment tool do you use?
- Are music and movement part of everyday?

CARING, LOVING and PROFESSIONAL STAFF

- Is staff trained and experienced in child development?
- Are there in-service trainings and other opportunities for advancement?
- Will my child have the same group of teachers consistently?
- Do teachers greet parents and children warmly when they arrive?
- Do teachers interact with children one on one and in a respectful manner?
- Are teachers consistent and calm when re-directing my baby's attention?
- Do teachers use a warm and pleasant tone of voice?
- Will my child feel loved, safe and happy?
- What's the average rate of staff turnover in the center?
- Is the center nationally accredited or star rated?

COMMUNICATION

- Will I receive daily notes about my child's day?
- What kind of information will I receive?
- Can I call you during the day?
- How do you document my baby's development?
- Are teachers available to meet with me to discuss my child's portfolio?
- Do you offer any parent events or programs?
- Are our conversations confidential?
- Is there a parent group that I can join?
- What do I need to bring on the 1st day?
- How do you handle my child's transition to the Toddler Program?

NOTES: