

# Is This the Right Place for My Child?

A quality care checklist for child care centers.



Place a check in each box if the program meets your expectations for that criteria.

Center 1    Center 2    Center 3    Center 4

## Will my child be supervised?

Are children watched at all times, including when they are napping?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the teachers warm and welcoming? Do they pay each child individual attention?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are positive guidance techniques used?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the staff-to-child ratios appropriate and do they follow the guidelines recommended by the Iowa Department of Human Services?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
★ <i>One caregiver per 4 infants/toddlers</i>				
★ <i>One caregiver per 6 two-year-olds</i>				
★ <i>One caregiver per 8 three-year-olds</i>				
★ <i>One caregiver per 12 four-year-olds</i>				
★ <i>One caregiver per 15 school-age children</i>				

## Is this a safe and healthy place for my child?

Do the teachers and children wash their hands (before/after eating, after using the bathroom, changing diapers, touching bodily fluids, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are diaper changing surfaces cleaned and sanitized after each use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do all of the children enrolled have required immunizations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are medicines labeled and kept out of children's reach?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are surfaces used to prepare and serve food cleaned and sanitized?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the food and beverages served to the children healthy and nutritious?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are cleaning supplies and other hazardous materials stored out of children's reach?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a plan to follow if a child is injured, sick or lost?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are first aid kits readily available?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a plan for responding to disasters?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has a satisfactory criminal history background check been conducted on each teacher?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the outdoor play area safe for children to play?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
★ <i>Is it checked each morning for hazards before children use it?</i>				
★ <i>Is the equipment the right size and type for the age of children who use it?</i>				
★ <i>Is the play area surrounded by a fence?</i>				
★ <i>Is the equipment placed on mulch, sand or rubber matting?</i>				
★ <i>Is the equipment in good condition?</i>				

**Have the adults been trained to care for children?**

Does the director have a degree and experience caring for children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do the lead teachers have a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, Associate's or Bachelor's degree and experience caring for children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there always someone present who has current CPR and First Aid training?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have the teachers been trained on child abuse prevention and how to report suspected cases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have the teachers received blood borne pathogens and disease prevention training?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the teachers continuing to receive training on caring for children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Will my child be able to grow and learn?**

Are the toys both age and developmentally appropriate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a variety of toys readily available for the children to use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the room arranged in easily identifiable play centers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there daily or weekly lesson plans?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do the teachers talk with then children? Do they engage them in conversations? Do they ask the children questions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do the teachers read to the children at least twice a day? Are there books available to the children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Is the program set up to promote quality?**

Are there written personnel policies and procedures?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are parents and staff asked to evaluate the program?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are teachers evaluated each year; do teachers complete a self-assessment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the program evaluated each year by someone outside the program?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the program accredited by a national organization?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Does the program work with parents?**

Will I be welcome to visit the center any time my child is in care?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is parents' feedback sought and used in making program improvements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will I receive or have access to a copy of the program's policies and procedures?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are annual conferences held with parents?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the program host any special parent events?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>