

ILLNESSES

- What is the program's policy on the exclusion of sick children?
- How are parents notified about outbreaks of communicable diseases?

TOYS

- Are toys in good condition and are they washed frequently?
- Are toys appropriate for the age and developmental level of your child?
- Are there enough toys and supplies for children to use?
- Are there enough appropriate toys and equipment for a variety of play experiences? Are there small and large toys? Are there toys for pretend and group play?

ACTIVITIES

- Is the level of activity suitable for your child?
- Is there time for caregivers to give individual attention to each child?
- Are infants engaged into activities and appropriate interactions with provider? Do they lay in their cribs too long?
- Are the children allowed the time and space for individual play?
- Do the children have time to finish their projects?
- Does the daily schedule include active and quiet play, rest time, and outdoor play?
- Are there opportunities for the children to listen to music, draw and paint, and tell stories?
- Do you feel comfortable with the amount of television shown and the way TV is used for learning?

FIELD TRIPS & TRANSPORTATION

- Are field trips a part of the program? Can parents participate?
- Is transportation safe?
- Is there a first aid kit and fire extinguisher in the vehicle?

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- Are there opportunities for parents to be involved in activities?
- Are regular parent meetings offered?

INSIDE ENVIRONMENT

- Are you comfortable with the cleanliness of the center or home?
- Is the indoor play area free of hazards? (uncovered outlets, chipping paint, hazardous chemicals and cleaners, dangling cords, etc.)
- Is the setting sanitary, attractive, and well-lit?
- Have sufficient safety measures been taken in the center or the home? Are vents and fireplaces screened? Is there a fire extinguisher, smoke detector, and a fire evacuation plan?

OUTSIDE ENVIRONMENT

- Is the outdoor play area free of hazards? (glass, poison ivy, etc.)
- Is the playground equipment in good condition?
- Is the ground covered sufficiently with enough surfacing to decrease serious injuries?
- Are children dressed appropriately for cold and warm weather?
- If the family child care provider has no yard, does the provider have an outside area nearby to take the children to play?

PROVIDER/TEACHER

- Do you like the provider? Is the provider warm and caring with the children?
- Is there high staff turnover in this center?
- Does the provider talk to children at their eye-level?
- Are you satisfied with the way the provider responds to a hurt or unhappy child?
- How many hours of training has the provider received within the last 12 months? (state minimum: 10 hours; suggested minimum: 20 hours)

YOUR FEELINGS

- Do the children appear to be enjoying themselves?
- Is the provider sensitive to cultural beliefs of yours and others?
- Does the environment expose children to diversity?
- Has the visit made you feel good?

GROUP SIZE AND RATIOS

- Does it appear to be too many children in the space?
- What is the licensed capacity for children in the center?
- Is the group size within the limits that the state has set?

In Georgia providers may care for a maximum of 6 children* throughout the day. Two additional children who are at least 3 years old may receive care for a designated 2 hours each day. An assistant who is at least 16 years old is required:

- when more than three children under the age of 12 months are present;
- when more than six children under the age of three years are present;
- when more than eight children under the age of five years are present.

* Providers may care for a maximum of 12 children under the age of 13 if she receives payment or compensation for only six of them.

Family Child Care Group and Ratio Guidelines

Center Child Care Group and Ratio Guidelines

| Age | Maximum Number of Children Allowed per Teacher | Maximum Group Size | Preferred Standard <small>National Association on the Education of Young Children</small> |
|--------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Infants | 6 | 12 | 3-4 |
| One-Year-Olds | 8 | 16 | 3-5 |
| Two-Year-Olds | 10 | 20 | 4-6 |
| Three-Year-Olds | 15 | 30 | 7-10 |
| Four-Year-Olds | 18 | 36 | 8-10 |
| Five-Year-Olds | 20 | 40 | 8-10 |
| Six Years or Older | 25 | 50 | 10-20 |

You can check the background of any program or caregiver at www.decal.state.ga.us or by calling **404-463-0703** or **0704**.

Need more information and resources? Call us.

Metro Atlanta
404-479-4240
877-722-2445

Central Georgia
478-752-7800
800-558-4804

Northwest Georgia
770-387-0828
800-308-1825

www.qualitycareforchildren.org

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Child Care CHECKLIST



Visit the child care setting that you are seriously considering for your child. As you observe, consider the following questions:

HANDWASHING & DIAPERING

- Do all children (including infants) wash their hands before meals and after toileting?
- Do the caregivers wash their hands after diapering each child? Do they wash the child's hands?
- Is the diaper-changing area near running water and away from the food storage or preparation area?
- What procedure is used to disinfect toys and equipment, including toilets and potty chairs?

MEALS

- What meals are served? Is the menu posted?
- Are you comfortable with the kind of food served at each meal? Is the menu balanced?
- May children have seconds?
- Is meal time pleasant? (Is there interaction among children and caregiver?)
- Does the child have to eat everything on his or her plate?
- Is food held out as a reward or punishment?
- Is the kitchen clean? Are you comfortable with the food handling procedures? Is there proper supervision for children while meals are being prepared?