



Choosing Quality Child Care Centers



Choosing child care can be tough and it is important to understand your options. Below is some information regarding licensed child care centers. The information listed defines a licensed child care center and gives some tips on choosing child care that meets your family's needs.

Licensed Child Care Center

Program and equipment includes:

- A planned written activity program
- A ban on corporal punishment
- Appropriate learning/play equipment
- Letting parents visit anytime
- Meeting safety requirements for transportation equipment

Everyone working at a licensed child care center must:

- Meet educational requirements
- Have a center director with a four year degree and 15 hours of early childhood education education courses
- Have a high school diploma or GED
- Be 18 years of age or older
- Pass a limited criminal history check
- Be trained in universal precautions, CPR and First Aid
- Have a physical exam upon employment
- Have a Mantoux TB test every year

The building where licensed child care is provided must:

- Post the license certificate in a prominent place
- Have at least 35 sq. ft. of space per child
- Be in sound, neat and sanitary condition
- Post disaster and First Aid procedures
- Meet minimum lighting standards
- Keep equipment in safe condition
- Lock up chemicals, medicines and poisons
- Have working telephone
- Post emergency telephone numbers
- Have enough toilets and sinks per child
- Hand washing sinks next to diapering tables
- Have controls to keep hot water hot, but not too hot

Continued on page 2.....

Check It Out Quality Indicators

Ask these questions to evaluate your child care options:

Does the person who will be caring for your child have special training in early childhood education, First Aid, and CPR?

How long has the caregiver been in the same program or providing child care in the home?

Are just a few children being cared for by one caregiver (low child/adult ratio)?

If there is more than one caregiver in the setting, is the total number of children in the group still fairly small (group size)?

If you are considering a more formal child care program, is it nationally accredited, and is it state licensed or regulated?

Does the caregiver welcome drop-in visits and parent ideas and involvement?

Does the caregiver get on the children's eye level, and give them lots of attention and encouragement?

Are there planned activities for children to do as well as lots of time for free play?

Are materials—such as books, blocks, and art materials—available to children all day long?

Does the place look clean and safe and is hand washing done often?

This list taken from
www.childcareaware.org



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Licensed Child Care Center Continued.....

The children in the child care center must:

- Have enough caregivers—there is a set child/staff ratio for each age group
- Be under direct supervision at all times
- Have access to drinking water

State health requirement include:

- An approved written health program and policies
- A health exam when each child is enrolled and every year until the child is two (2)
- An immunization record for every child
- Isolation procedures for children whom are sick
- Procedures for medications

Meals or snacks must:

- Be part of an approved written food program
- Be nutritionally balanced
- Meet state health sanitation standards for food service
- Be made in an approved kitchen or come from an approved vendor

To a get a license a center must pass:

- An Architectural Plan Review by the Indiana State Building Commission, and Indiana State Department of Health
- When the facility is ready to open, an on site inspection by the state Fire Marshal
- For health, sanitation and food service, an on site inspection by the Child Care Health Unit of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Bureau of Child Care
- For program, staff, and all licensing requirements, an on-site inspection by the Bureau of Child Care Center Licensing Consultant



Child/Staff Ratios
For Licensed Child Care Centers

Age of the Youngest Child in the Group	Maximum # of Children Supervised by One Caregiver	Maximum # of Children in One Group
Infant	4	8
Toddler	5	10
2 Years	5	10
30-36 Months	7	14
3 Years	10	20
4 Years	12	24
5 Years and Older	15	30

