



# Childcare Comparison Checklist

Choosing the right childcare program for your child(ren) can seem like a daunting task. With so many considerations, it can be difficult to keep track of everything. That's why we've assembled the following checklist! Use this document to record and compare each program's offerings...

	Tender Years			
Is the exterior of the center well maintained and free of potential hazards?	✓			
Does the interior appear bright, clean and well maintained?	✓			
Does the facility smell pleasant?	✓			
Were you and your child(ren) greeted warmly?	✓			
Do you and your child(ren) feel comfortable with the director and the staff?	✓			
Do teachers/staff seem to genuinely enjoy working with children?	✓			
Do other children at the center appear to be happy?	✓			
Are unannounced visits by parents encouraged?	✓			
Are bathrooms clean and stocked?	✓			

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS

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## STAFF

Does the director have a bachelor's degree in a child-related field and 2+ years experience?	✓			
Has the lead teacher had higher education in early childhood (or related field) and 2+ years experience?	✓			
Have caregivers participated in early childhood development classes?	✓			
Are teachers and staff involved in continuing education classes?	✓			
Have staff members been with the company for some time?	✓			
Is there an appropriate number children per classroom? (Group Size)	✓			
Is there an appropriate number of caregivers? (Adult to Child Ratio)	✓			
Are children supervised at all times, even when sleeping?	✓			
Are disciplinary actions positive, clear, consistent, and fair?	✓			
Have all caregivers undergone comprehensive background checks?	✓			
Does the center have a 2-way communication system in place for daily updates?	✓			
Can you receive secure updates and photos of your child throughout the day?	✓			
Are owners and management easily accessible to parents?	✓			



## Childcare Comparison Checklist (Continued)

	Tender Years			
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
Is the program licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services?	✓			
Are educational programs certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education?	✓			
What STARS level has the center achieved?	3			
Does the curriculum align with my local school district?	✓			
Is there a daily balance of play time, story time, activity time, nap time, etc.?	✓			
Are there enough toys and learning materials for all children?	✓			

<b>HEALTH</b>				
Do caregivers & children wash hands frequently (esp. before eating, after bathroom & changing diapers)?	✓			
Are diaper-changing areas properly cleaned and sanitized after each use?	✓			
Are all children up to date on their immunizations, and does the center keep these records?	✓			
Are cleaning supplies & toxic substances stored away from children, and are safety data sheets available?	✓			
Is poison control information posted?	✓			
Has the building been tested for radon, lead and asbestos?	✓			
Are medications kept out of reach of children, and are they properly labeled?	✓			
Does the center serve nutritious meals and snacks?	✓			

<b>SAFETY</b>				
Is there an emergency plan for when a child is injured, sick or lost?	✓			
Is each child's emergency contact information readily available?	✓			
Are staff members trained on child safety, First Aid, and CPR?	✓			
Are all staff properly trained on infant back sleeping and sleep policies?	✓			
Are First Aid Kits and Fire Extinguishers easily accessible?	✓			
Are there emergency/evacuation plans posted for fire, tornado, etc.?	✓			
Are fire/evacuation drills conducted monthly?	✓			
Is playground equipment regularly inspected for safety?	✓			
Are outdoor play areas surrounded by a fence?	✓			
Are proper security procedures in place for entry and exit to the center?	✓			