☑ Quality Child Care Checklist

A handy checklist to assist your family in finding the best program in which your child can learn and grow.

	NEW HORIZON	PROGRAM 1	PROGRAM 2
INTERACTIONS			
Are the teachers affectionate, responsive, and sensitive to the children?	☐	☐	☐
Does the center have a policy or philosophy on guidance and discipline?	☐	☐	☐
FAMILY INVOLVEMENT			
Are there both written and verbal communication between the teacher and the parent regarding your child's day?	☐	☐	☐
Is parent input welcome?	☐	☐	☐
Are families able to visit at any time and encouraged to participate in activities?	☐	☐	☐
CURRICULUM			
Does the program have daily or weekly lesson plans that include a variety of activities – art, music, outdoor play, reading, dramatic play, science, and math?	☐	☐	☐
Do children experience hands-on activities?	☐	☐	☐
Does the curriculum target the physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and literacy and language aspects of development?	☐	☐	☐
Does the program use sign language with younger children?	☐	☐	☐
Is there a balance between child-initiated and teacher-directed activities?	☐	☐	☐
CHILD ASSESSMENT			
Does the curriculum include an assessment of the child's development?	☐	☐	☐
Is the assessment tool a comprehensive system using areas of development? Is the tool an observation-based assessment which incorporates predictors of school-readiness?	☐	☐	☐
Are parent conferences offered which allow you to visit with your child's teacher in a focused way about your child's development and progress and to develop shared plans for educating and caring for your child?	☐	☐	☐
TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS			
Do the teachers each have experience in caring for children and a minimum of an early childhood credential or higher degree?	☐	☐	☐
Are the teachers expected to receive ongoing professional training?	☐	☐	☐
How long have the teachers been employed at the center? _____	☐	☐	☐
LICENSING AND ACCREDITATION			
What is the reputation of the center within the community?	☐	☐	☐
In addition to state licensing, is the center nationally accredited by NAEYC or NECPA?	☐	☐	☐
HEALTH & SAFETY AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT			
How are children supervised?	☐	☐	☐
Are exterior entrances locked to prevent unauthorized access to the classrooms? Are policies and procedures in place to keep children safe (entrance security system, handwashing policies, administration of medication policy, etc.)?	☐	☐	☐
Are the classrooms clean, safe, and hazard-free?	☐	☐	☐
Do the meals and snacks meet the USDA Child and Adult Food Program guidelines?	☐	☐	☐
Are there defined learning areas (learning centers) in the classroom?	☐	☐	☐

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