



11 Factors to Consider When Choosing a Childcare Center



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Presented By



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1. Holidays and Other Closures

When looking for a childcare center, you should ask how often the daycare closes for holidays and other times during the year. You need to know whether you are still responsible for paying for the weeks or days the center is closed, and if you are responsible for finding other childcare.



2. Daily Schedule

What does a typical day look like? What types of activities will your child participate in? Is a daily schedule available for parents? Getting an idea of the daily schedule will help you determine whether your child will enjoy his or her day.



3. Communication

How does the staff communicate with parents about what is going? How will they report to you about any problems they are having? Do they encourage feedback from parents? How would they like to receive feedback? Open communication can help improve your child's overall experience.

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4. Training, Licensing, Credentials, and Accreditation

A well-educated and experienced staff will provide high quality interactions and activities for your child. Make sure to ask the following questions when looking at a childcare center:

- Does the director have experience caring for children?
- Who is on staff? Is there a place to view staff biographies?
- How is the staff screened?
- Does each staff member have the right credentials and experience?
- Does someone have current CPR and first aid training?
- How does the childcare center conduct its own training on an ongoing basis?
- Does the staff continue to receive training about the changes in childcare industry?



5. Age Divisions

How are students grouped together? Are they kept within the same age range? How big are the groups? Socializing children is an important part of child development. Knowing who and how your child will be socializing will help you understand more about a childcare center.

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6. The Facility

Make sure to inspect the layout of the facility for cleanliness and organization. Is the layout open for children to play and crawl? Also, look for cleanliness and ask about the daily cleaning routine. Does the facility have an outside cleaning crew/company coming in at night to clean the center?



7. Attitude/Energy

Is the staff warm and welcoming? Do they pay individual attention to each child? When you walk in the facility, is it total chaos when you walk in? Children will thrive in an environment that is controlled, engaging and supportive.

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8. Recommendations by Others

One of the best ways to measure the quality of a childcare center is by asking other parents for a referral. Does the center have a good percentage of children enrolled who were referred by other parents? Ask other enrolled parents about the experience their children are having and if they are satisfied with the quality of service, or check for parent testimonials on the center's website to hear what enrolled families are saying. Does the center do an annual parent survey to get parent feedback? If so, can you see the results of these surveys to know what existing parents are feeling?



9. Safety & Security

Inquire about how medicines, cleaning supplies, and other poisonous materials are stored. Ask if the center has secure doors, strong safety gates, and a plan in case of disasters. Also, ask each childcare center to explain who has access to the facility and how people can leave and enter the building. Does the center have a security keypad at the entrance to discourage strangers from entering? What kind of log in and log out process do they have?

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10. Curriculum

Familiarize yourself with each childcare center's curriculum. Ask each center how it prepares children for school. Are the teachers required to create a lesson plan for their class? Ask about the reasoning behind the chosen curriculum and its advantages. Compare the different curriculums to each other and decide which one would benefit your child the most. The time your child spends each day at the childcare center will help to establish a lifetime foundation and enthusiasm for learning.



11. Enrichment Classes

Does the center offer extra classes such as Dance, Gymnastics, Spanish, Music, or Computer? Offering these extra classes allows your child additional educational opportunity and added entertainment.

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3 convenient locations to serve you and your family!

Monroe CT Location

477 Main St. Monroe, CT 06468 PH: (203) 712-0913

Trumbull CT Location

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