



Quality Child Care Checklist

Things to observe:

- Are you greeted by a child care provider when you arrive?
- Is the atmosphere welcoming and child-friendly?
- Do the other children appear happy and enthusiastic?
- Are children and child care providers actively participating in activities together?
- Is there a tone of respect between the children and child care providers?
- Are the child care providers using a suitable approach to providing guidance and instruction?
- Are there age-appropriate materials accessible to the children?
- Is some of the children's creative work visibly displayed?
- Do the children seem familiar with the routine?
- Do the children seem confident, or unsure of what they should be doing?
- How do care providers handle disagreements between the children?
- Is there an appropriate child care provider to child ratio?
- Does the environment appear clean and safe?
- Are rules and safety procedures clearly communicated?
- Is adequate space provided for each child to keep necessary personal items?
- Is a daily activity schedule clearly posted or communicated to you?
- Are evacuation procedures clearly posted or discussed?
- Is the name of the individual in charge clearly posted or communicated?

Things to ask:

- meals and snacks that follow Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating
- activities that offer a mix of free play and quiet time, and that are developmentally appropriate for the age of the child
- positive interactions between the child care provider and child that is warm, caring and respectful
- opportunities for the children to be read to and to participate in creative art activities
- a mixture of physical activity and outdoor play for a minimum of 30 minutes

A day of quality care should include some of the following:

- meals and snacks that follow Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating
- activities that offer a mix of free play and quiet time, and that are developmentally appropriate for the age of the child
- positive interactions between the child care provider and child that is warm, caring and respectful
- opportunities for the children to be read to and to participate in creative art activities
- a mixture of physical activity and outdoor play for a minimum of 30 minutes