

When You Consider Family Daycare Homes

Family daycare homes offer you childcare services in the provider's home. States differ on the regulations that apply to operating family daycare homes, so it is important that you know the standards that your state or community have established.

Be sure you visit the home and check references before you decide to leave your child with the provider. Check references with previous clients, not just with current clients or friends. Meet the provider's family. Arrange to take your child to visit the provider you chose so that your child can become familiar with the new environment, thus easing the transition from home.

Don't feel that you are being nosy or invasive — a good caregiver should expect and encourage your questions and should be able to ease any fears you may have.

Does the provider seem to respect the children and have a sense of humor?

- Yes
- No

Does the provider have a substitute?

- Yes
- No

Does the provider meet state standards and carry liability insurance?

- Yes
- No

Is the location convenient, clean, and pleasant and is the neighborhood acceptable?

- Yes
- No

Do the children sleep in cribs or on cots?

- Cribs
- Cots

How often are the linens cleaned?

Is there a safe, fenced outdoor play area?

- Yes
- No

Do the children go outdoors daily as weather permits?

- Yes
- No

What are the safety precautions concerning stairs, electrical outlets, cleaning fluids, etc.?

Are proper bathroom facilities and first-aid supplies available?

- Yes
- No

Does the provider have up-to-date training in first aid and CPR?

- Yes
- No

Does the contract stipulate fees and include when and how you must pay (either by check or cash)?

- Yes
- No

Do you pay when your child is absent?

- Yes
- No

Is there a late charge?

- Yes
- No

What is the fee for watching your child after hours, during evenings, and on weekends?

No

How much notice must you give to withdraw your child?

Are there sufficient toys and equipment for each child?

Yes

No

How much notice is required for the provider to end services or raise fees?

Are they cleaned daily?

Yes

No

Does the provider have written policies?

Yes

No

Are there opportunities for story time, arts and crafts, and quiet times?

Yes

No

What are the arrangements for medical emergencies?

Does the provider have a well-organized schedule for each child?

Yes

No

What are the provider's policies about discipline and illness?

Which meals are provided?

Does this set-up meet your employer's standards for reimbursement for dependent care?

Yes

No

How, when, and where are the meals prepared?

What holidays does this program observe? (When is it closed?) Does it close with the county on snow days, etc.?

Can special foods be served if children have allergies?

Yes

No

How many children does the provider care for during each day or week?

Does the provider transport the children?

Yes

No

Does this meet state licensing guidelines?

Yes

No

Is the driver properly licensed and insured?

Yes

No

Will your child "fit in" with the other children and program?

Yes

No

Are specific rooms or areas of the home available to the children?

Yes