



# WHAT IS *quality* CHILD CARE?



## HOW TO SPOT A QUALITY CHILD CARE ENVIRONMENT

- Learning groups are small enough to allow children frequent opportunities to interact with adults and each other.
- Family involvement and coordination is welcome and encouraged.
- Staff is educated, experienced, and knowledgeable. Relationships with sensitive, caring adults are imperative for development in all domains.
- The program maintains high standards of health, safety, and nutrition.
- There are clear and accessible administrative policies and procedures.
- There are periodic opportunities for evaluation of the program and personnel.
- Each child's developmental needs and interests are taken into consideration.
- The program's curriculum includes opportunities to develop communication, sense of self and relationships, curious minds, and strong and healthy bodies.

## TOP 6 QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN LOOKING FOR QUALITY CHILD CARE

- 1. Are you licensed?**  
By using a licensed provider, you have peace of mind knowing the program is inspected at least twice per year; background checks and trainings are performed; and health and safety standards are met which is the foundation for a safe, quality environment for your child.
- 2. What is the group size and ratio of children to adults?**  
The number of kids each adult cares for impacts his or her ability to be warm and responsive to each child.
- 3. What activities are available for my child's age group?**  
Activities that take into consideration your child's developmental age, strengths, needs and interests better promote learning and development.
- 4. How can I be involved in my child's program?**  
Ongoing, casual conversations with the adults who care for your child—whether at a child care center, family program, relative or neighbor's home—are essential to a positive and mutually respectful relationship.
- 5. What will my child's day look like? Is there a regular routine?**  
Children need a consistent, predictable balance of rest and active movement—including outdoor experiences when appropriate—throughout the day.
- 6. Can I talk to some of your references?**  
After you have narrowed your choices of child care options, it may be helpful to talk with other parents. Keep in mind that parents may have different expectations and perspectives, and a good fit for one child may not work well for another.

