

***Check List for Finding Quality Child Care
For Parents & Child Care Providers***

- You like the look and “feel” of the place? Is it clean? (Check bathroom, kitchen and play areas)
- Do the cribs meet current national safety standards and are in good condition. Look for certification safety seal. Older cribs may not meet current standards. Crib slats should be not more than 2 3/8” apart, and mattresses should fit snugly.
- Are safety gates used to keep children away from potentially dangerous areas?
- Be sure miniblinds and Venetian blinds do not have looped cords. Check that vertical blinds, continuous looped blinds, and drapery cords have tension or tie-down devices to hold the cords tight.
- Do you like the person in charge? What kind of training and experience does she/he have? Ask to see proof of:
 - State registration or certification if applicable
 - Professional Development Registry (PDR) Level
 - First Aid and CPR certification
 - Nutrition Education
- Is there good supervision of the children? How many children are being cared for and what ages are they?
- What kinds of activities are offered? Are the toys right for the age of your children? Is the play area safe?
- Can you drop in and visit whenever you want?
- What kind of discipline is used? Does it fit with your ideas about how children should be treated?
- Is the provider able to meet your child’s special care needs (or willing to learn how)?
- Is care available when you need it? Is it in a convenient location for you?
- Is the cost within your ability to pay? Are you charged even if your child is absent?
- Who will take care of the children if the provider has to leave for an appointment or an emergency?
- (Once your child is in care.) Is your child happy and relaxed at child care? Does he/she look forward to being there?

Source: Oregon Child Care Resource & Referral Network