

Questions to Ask Daycare Providers

Daycare Philosophy and Approach to Childcare



- What is your daycare's philosophy or approach to childcare?
- What is the staff-to-child ratio in your daycare center?
- How do you handle discipline and behavior management?
- How do you encourage social and emotional development in children?
- Do you support play-based learning, structured academics, or a mix of both?

Health, Safety, and Hygiene



- What safety measures are in place to protect the children?
- Are all staff members trained in CPR and first aid?
- What is your policy for handling a sick child?
- How do you accommodate children with allergies or dietary restrictions?
- How often are toys, equipment, and play areas cleaned and disinfected?
- Are there outdoor play areas or opportunities for physical activities?
- How do you manage emergencies, such as accidents or unexpected illnesses?

Curriculum and Learning



- What is your approach to early childhood education?
- Do you use a structured curriculum or learning plans?
- What enrichment programs or activities do you offer (e.g., music, art, languages)?
- Do you offer opportunities for outdoor play and free play?
- How do you track and communicate a child's developmental milestones?
- How do you foster cognitive, social, and emotional growth in children?

Communication and Parental Involvement



- How do you communicate with parents about their child's daily activities?
- Is there an open-door policy for parents to visit or observe the daycare?
- How do you handle parental concerns or feedback?
- Do you host parent-teacher conferences or meetings?
- What is your policy on parental involvement in daycare activities, such as volunteering?

Questions to Ask Daycare Providers

Facilities and Accreditation



- Is your daycare licensed or accredited by any regulatory bodies?
- Do you allow parents to tour the daycare center before enrollment?
- What qualifications and experience do your staff members have?
- Do you have cameras in the center for monitoring?
- How do you adapt to the needs of children at different developmental stages?
- Are there specific childproofing or safety features in place throughout the daycare?

Additional Questions to Consider



- What is the daycare's daily schedule, and how do you balance learning, play, meals, and rest?
- How do you handle drop-offs, pick-ups, and late arrivals?
- What kind of meals and snacks do you provide, and are they included in the fees?
- How are vaccinations and health records managed for children attending the daycare?
- Are there any additional fees or costs beyond the standard tuition?

How to Use This Checklist



- **Print or Download:** Bring this checklist with you when visiting daycare centers or meeting with providers.
- **Ask and Take Notes:** Use the checklist to guide your conversation and jot down answers to compare later.
- **Evaluate Providers:** Use your notes to evaluate and compare multiple daycare options based on your child's needs.