

## Daycare Checklist

There are a lot of things to look for in a daycare. This checklist can help you figure out what questions are important to you. Be sure to ask these questions.

### License

- Is this a licensed daycare? If yes, the daycare should have its license hung up where you can see it.

### Building

- Is the daycare clean?
- Is the daycare well maintained?
- Are the windows and doors secure so that children cannot get out of them on their own?
- Is the building accessible?
- Is there an outdoor play space? Is it clean and well maintained?

### Safety

- Are there safety gates at the top and bottom of staircases?
- Are medications and cleaning products stored in a safe area that children cannot get into or reach?

- Does equipment, like cribs, meet Canadian Safety Standards?
- Does the daycare use car seats properly when transporting children in vehicles?
- Does the daycare have a policy about who is allowed to pick up your child from daycare?
- Is there a routine for emergency evacuations, such as in the case of a fire? Are these practiced with the children?
- What is the ratio (number) of staff for children? Is this manageable?

## **Health**

- Does the daycare clean all toys and surfaces regularly?
- Does the daycare have a handwashing policy?
- Is there a policy about giving children medications?
- Does the daycare have policies about allergies?
- Are all staff required to have up-to-date first aid and CPR training?
- How does the daycare monitor which adults come in and out of the daycare?
- Is there a policy about bringing a sick child to the daycare?

## **Programming**

- Are parents told about the daily schedule?
- Are activities developmentally appropriate? Do children have access to age-appropriate toys and equipment?

- Do children get to play outdoors?
- Do children have lots of time to play?
- Is the use of TVs, computers, and other screened technology limited?
- Is the programming inclusive to children with special needs?
- Does the daycare provide food or do you have to bring it for your child?

If the daycare provides food, is it nutritious? Does the daycare follow Canada's Food Guide and Ministry of Education's Standards?

- Are the staff dressed appropriately for working and playing with children?

## **Children**

- Are children actively playing?
- Are staff respectful of the children?
- Is there a policy about discipline?
- Are children allowed to bring a special toy or blanket from home?

## **General**

- What will daycare cost?
- When do you have to pay?
- Will you get a receipt?
- Can parents give suggestions about programming?
- Do you have to pay for times when your child is not at the daycare?
- Is there an open door policy for parents visiting the daycare?
- Can you go into the daycare when picking up your child or is your child

always brought to you?

- What time can you pick up or drop off your child?
- What happens if you are late to pick up your child?