Community Coordinated Care for Children, Inc.

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Tips on Choosing Quality Care

Early education programs, whether at a child care home or center, vary in philosophy, style and routine. However, all early childhood programs should take into account a child's individual social, emotional and cognitive development.

Once you have narrowed down your choices, plan to visit each home or center more than once, and during different times of the day. When scheduling your first visit, plan to go without your child and be prepared to stay for a while. Your next visit should be unannounced. Take your child during visits when he/she can participate in activities, giving you an opportunity to observe adult interaction. Don't hesitate to ask questions to the owner, director and/or provider.

Be aware that at certain times of the day, providers may not be able to spend the amount of time it takes to answer all of your important questions.

Some Important Questions To Ask:

- What is included in my fee (i.e. snacks, lunch, diapers)?
- What is the rate of staff turnover?
- What is the policy when and/or if my child gets sick?
- Will I get regular feedback about my child's day?
- Who cares for the children when the teacher is out?

Choosing the right child care for your small one is the beginning of an ongoing process, and a relationship between you, your child and provider. Observation, exchange of information and evaluations do not end the moment you decide on your child care program. Whether your involvement in the program is during the time of drop-off/pick-up, parent meetings or volunteering in your child's class, become familiar with your child's day and needs.

Helpful Links:

We encourage each of you to read through these helpful links when choosing your child's new or next quality care:

Choosing a Child Care Facility
Know Your Child Care Facility