

Family Child Care Home Checklist

Adapted with permission from the Crawford County Health Department

Ask these questions prior to visiting a child care provider:

Provider's Name

Does the provider have a current Kansas License or Registration? (Ask to see it at the visit.)

Is the group size and range acceptable?

Note to parents:

Licensed Home: Maximum of ten children with no more than seven children under school age. With two children under 18 months of age, only nine total children are allowed. With three children under 18 months of age, the total number of children allowed is eight.

Registered Home: Maximum of six children in a registered home with no more than three children under 18 months.

The above numbers are the maximum number of children allowed by Kansas regulations. Smaller groups are recommended unless the provider is highly qualified. (Providers must count their own children if they are under twelve years of age.)

How do the provider (and the children) spend their day?

Request names and numbers of two parent references?

What is the fee and what does it include?

Do you pay fees when the children are gone due to illness, vacation, or holidays?

Do the hours fit your needs?

What arrangements are made if the provider is illness?

Does the provider transport or watch children walk to and from school?

What To Look For When Visiting the Home:

Health and Environment

- | Yes | No | |
|-------|-------|--|
| _____ | _____ | Is the home bright, cheerful, clean, and orderly? |
| _____ | _____ | Are the indoor and outdoor play areas safe? |
| _____ | _____ | Are poisons, medications, and guns locked up? |
| _____ | _____ | Are bathrooms adequate, clean, and acceptable? |
| _____ | _____ | Are health assessments, immunizations, emergency information, and medical treatment releases kept for all children in care? |
| _____ | _____ | Are children with contagious diseases excluded from care? |
| _____ | _____ | Is there a safety plan to follow in emergencies? |
| _____ | _____ | How will I be notified if my child will be someplace other than the home? |
| _____ | _____ | Are precautions taken to assure children are released only by authorized adults? |
| _____ | _____ | Do children brush their teeth and wash their hands regularly? |
| _____ | _____ | Does provider wash hands regularly? |
| _____ | _____ | If the provider transports children, are there individual seat belts for each child and car seats or boosters for children under four years? |

Program

- | Yes | No | |
|-------|-------|--|
| _____ | _____ | Is the day structured to include varied activities which challenge thinking, stimulate creativity, and develop physical and social skills? |
| _____ | _____ | Are there adequate space and materials for both active and quiet play? |
| _____ | _____ | Does provider talk to children, read aloud to them and answer their questions? |
| _____ | _____ | Is the amount and content of television watching limited? |

Parent Involvement

- | Yes | No | |
|-------|-------|--|
| _____ | _____ | Are parents encouraged to visit anytime? |
| _____ | _____ | Does provider take time to talk to parents and make them feel welcome? |
| _____ | _____ | Can parents get regular feedback on children's behavior? How? |
| _____ | _____ | Does provider seem supportive of mothers who work outside the home? |
| _____ | _____ | Are there opportunities for parents to participate? |

Infants and Toddlers

- | Yes | No | |
|-------|-------|--|
| _____ | _____ | Is mental and physical stimulation provided by offering things to look at, touch, and listen to? |
| _____ | _____ | Is time spent holding, playing with, and talking to babies? |
| _____ | _____ | Are diapering and feeding sanitary? |
| _____ | _____ | Does provider cooperate with parent's efforts to toilet train toddlers? |

Provider

- | Yes | No | |
|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | Is the provider warm, calm, and friendly in dealing with children and adults? |
| _____ | _____ | Are positive discipline methods used? |
| _____ | _____ | Are simple, consistent limits of behavior set and maintained? |
| _____ | _____ | Does the provider bend to the child's level when talking to them? |
| _____ | _____ | Are children comforted when needed? |
| _____ | _____ | Are different cultural values accepted and respected? |
| _____ | _____ | Is provider's family supportive supportive of her work? |
| _____ | _____ | Does the provider attend child care training? |

Other Questions to Consider Before Choosing Child Care

Take some time to think about the type of care, cost, and location that will meet your family's needs.

Call homes which appear to meet your needs and use this form to gather information.

Make appointments to visit several locations by phone. It is best to visit at a time when the children are active so you can observe the adult/child interaction.

A parent may call the Health Department to check a provider's compliance history.

Additionally, concerns about illegal care (not registered or licensed), poor quality care or other concerns should be reported to the Health Department. (You can call the Child Care Resource and Referral Office at 1.866.732.9700 for the number of your local Health Department.)