

Questions to Ask When Looking for Child Care

How will I know this is the right fit for my family?

Will my child be safe and healthy?

- Will the same person take care of my child regularly?
- Is there a family handbook explaining the policies (guidance and discipline, payment, closures, etc.)?
- Are healthy meals and snacks provided?
- How many children are cared for daily in the program?

Will my child's development be supported?

- Is there a daily routine and planned activities?
- How will my child's home language and culture be supported?
- Are TV, computer, and other screen times limited?

Do children and families feel supported by the program?

- Are children and families welcomed by program staff?
- Are families invited to visit and participate in the program?
- How does the program regularly communicate information with families?

What is the experience and education of the staff working with my child?

- How long has the program staff been providing child care?
- What training and education do the program staff have?
- Is the program participating in Oregon's Spark?

Will the environment allow my child to learn and grow?

- Is the environment clean, comfortable, and friendly?
- Is there enough indoor and outdoor space for movement and play?
- Are there enough materials, books, and toys for children?

Can you see positive relationships in the program?

- Do program staff smile at, talk with, and listen to children?
- Do program staff play with and read to children?
- Are children playing together?

Before you visit a child care program, think about:

What are the most important things to your family while searching for child care?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
