

Choosing a Child Care Centre - A Checklist for Parents

Visit the service to check the following

- Does the centre's hours of operation suit your needs
- Ask about our closure dates
- Can the centre meet your cultural and or religious requirements

During the visit remember to check:

First impressions

- Is the atmosphere relaxed and happy?
- Can you hear laughter and the sounds of children playing?
- Do you feel welcome?
- Do staff members show an interest in your child?
- Are the rooms clean and welcoming to children?
- Were you introduced to staff?
- Were you offered a tour of the centre?

Health & safety

- Is the centre safe and secure?
- Does the centre have a sun safety policy?
- Is the kitchen clean and tidy?

Communication

- How will you receive feedback on your child's day?
- Did you see notice boards with helpful information?

Management & staff

- Who is Management? Local?
- Are the staff suitably qualified?
- Are their Qualifications on display?

Food and mealtimes

- Is there a cook on site?
- Is the cook qualified?
- Did you view the menu?
- Does the centre accommodate food allergies and intolerances?

Environment

- Is there a daily program or timetable on display?
- Is the building well maintained?
- Is there plenty of space to play?
- Are the bathrooms appropriate for each age group?
- Is there shade outdoors?
- Where do the children sleep? Is it clean and tidy?
- Do children of different ages have separate areas to play?

Toys and equipment

- Is there a range of toys and books for the children?
- Are the toys at the children's height?
- Are the toys clean and in good condition?
- Is there a range of toys for different ages?