

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO FIND CHILD CARE?

This is one situation when shopping around and comparing your options is the key to your and your child's happiness. You will want to visit several high quality programs to find the one that will best fit your child's needs. The questions in this brochure will help you carefully investigate the quality and services programs offer.

WHAT PAPER WORK WILL I NEED TO COMPLETE?

All centers and homes differ in their policies, but the NC Division of Child Development who regulates child care has some minimum requirements:

- Emergency Medical Care Authorization
- Program's Discipline Policy
- Medication Permission
- Field Trip Travel and Activity Permission
- Summary of the NC Child Care Laws
- *(Centers Only)* Applications for each child needing care

Paperwork required within 30 days:

- Updated Immunization Record
- Health Assessment Form (signed by your child's doctor)

Contact NC Division of Child Development at 1-800-859-0829 or visit www.ncchildcare.net for additional information.

RESOURCE ROOM

PARENTS!

Did you know that the Davidson County Partnership for Children has a resource room full of free materials for you and your child to check out?

COME SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT TO OFFER!

We are located at
235 East Center Street
Lexington, NC 27292

Here are a few of the possibilities waiting for you:

- ⇒ Storybook kits
- ⇒ Flannel board sets
- ⇒ Children's books and videos
- ⇒ Parenting books



**DAVIDSON COUNTY
PARTNERSHIP FOR
CHILDREN**

235 East Center Street
Lexington, NC 27292

Phone: 336-249-6688

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www.partnershipforchildren.org



DAVIDSON COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Your Local Smart Start Agency

Check List for Finding Quality Care



Preschoolers

336-249-6688

What should I look for when choosing a Child Care Program for my Preschooler?

If the answers to some of these questions are still not clear after you have seen the facility and observed a classroom or family child care home, do not be afraid to ask as many questions as you need in order to get your answers! **A high quality facility will feel comfortable responding to all your questions.**

STAFF QUESTIONS:

- ✓ Do the teachers seem respectful of the children?

- ✓ Do the teachers ask engaging questions? Do the teachers answer the children's questions?

- ✓ Do the teachers give the children clear limits so that they understand what they can and cannot do in the classroom and outside?

- ✓ Do the teachers share information with me upon arrival and/or pick-up about my child's day?

- ✓ Are the children getting individualized attention?

- ✓ Are the required amount of staff present to care for the children?

FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME: At least 1 teacher for 8 children—only 5 can be ages 0-5.

CHILD CARE CENTER: At least 1 teacher for 10 children age 2; 1 teacher for 15 children age 3; 1 teacher for 20 children age 4. *A higher quality center will have less children per adult.*

- ✓ How many months/years have the teachers been employed at this facility/this classroom?

- ✓ How much early childhood education does my child's teacher have? What kind of training do teachers participate in yearly?

SETTING QUESTIONS:

- ✓ How is the lighting and ventilation? Too dim, too bright, is it adjustable?

- ✓ Does the outdoor play area seem safe and large enough for active play?

- ✓ Does the air smell clean indoors?

- ✓ What are the procedures for keeping the room and the toys clean?

- ✓ Does the child care area look organized, with different areas for different kinds of play?

- ✓ Are the children/teachers washing their hands when entering the classroom, before and after meals, and after using the restroom.

ACTIVITY QUESTIONS:

- ✓ Do the children get to go outside everyday?

- ✓ Are the children read to daily?

- ✓ Do I see materials for pretend play, outdoor play, sand and water play, painting, and science?

- ✓ Do I see books, puzzles, blocks, and musical instruments?

- ✓ Does my child spend the majority of his time choosing his own play activities and playmates?

- ✓ Do the children watch television? If so, how much and what programs?

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

- ✓ What is the sick child policy?

- ✓ Do they provide nutritious meals and snacks?

- ✓ Are my questions, comments, and visits welcomed?

- ✓ What is the star rating of the facility? *(Facilities are rated from 1 to 5 stars with 5 being the highest)* How did they get their stars?

