

Name of Preschool

Address

Phone

Email

Website

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Providers displaying this seal are participating in a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). Ask them what this participation means and how it's helping the children enrolled in their program.

To learn more, visit LAUP.net.

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Can you
Spot
the
Quality?

*A Guide to
Finding
the Right
Child Care
Setting*



The ABCs of Quality

Choosing child care may be the most important decision you will make as a parent. Approximately 85% of a child's brain development occurs in the first three years of life. Research shows that children who attend quality preschool are four times more likely to earn a college degree, stay employed longer, and earn higher incomes.

As a parent, how do you know what a quality setting looks like? Look inside for questions that will help you choose a child care setting that best suits your child, your family, and your work situation. As you start visiting child care centers, use this brochure to take notes on what you find and how you feel about each one.

Teacher/Child Ratios

Small FCC (Family Child Care homes that hold up to 8 children)

1 teacher: 4 infants; 1 teacher: 6 children; or 1 teacher: 6 children, 2 infants

Large FCC (Family Child Care homes that hold up to 14 children)

1 teacher, 1 assistant: 12 children, 4 infants; or 1 teacher, 1 assistant: 14 children, 3 infants

Child Care Center

(for infants/toddlers, ages 0-2)

1 teacher: 4 infants

Child Care Center

(for preschoolers, ages 2-5)

1 teacher: 12 children

Program & Environment

- How do teachers plan activities or lessons?
- How many children is this room licensed for?

Observe: Is the room well-supervised? Are the teachers spread throughout the room so all children are visible?

Child Development

- How do you measure children's progress and development?
- Do you work with families on screening their children's development?

Observe: Do the children seem engaged in their classroom routines? Are the children involved in activities that promote their learning?

Licensing & Accreditation

- When was your last visit from Community Care Licensing?*
- Are you participating in a Quality Rating and Improvement System?

Family Engagement

- Do you have a parent handbook or other resources?
- How can parents be involved in your program?

Observe: If a parent is picking up or dropping off their child, watch how the staff, including teachers, interact with them and the child.

*For more details, questions and observations, visit laup.net/spotthequality

Health

- What is the policy on sick children?
- Can you tell me about your emergency procedures?

Observe: Is the indoor environment clean and organized? Is the license posted?

Teachers

- What are your teachers' educational backgrounds?
- What kind of training opportunities does the staff have?

Observe: Are the teachers patient and receptive to each child's needs? What do teachers do when a child becomes upset?

