



Families Looking for Child Care

Child Care Aware® of Kentucky is committed to helping families find safe, affordable, quality care. Our goal is to improve child care quality by offering training and technical assistance to child care providers and consumer education to the community-at-large.

To download one of our resources or to search for child care facilities across the state with options to meet your family's specific needs, visit:

www.childcareawareky.org

The list you receive does not imply recommendations to specific facilities.



Choosing Child Care

More and more, research tells us that our children's healthy development depends on safe and positive experiences during the first few years of life. Choosing high quality child care is one of the most important decisions you will ever make for your child. The 14 researched-based guidelines listed on the back of this handout can help you make the right choice for your child. Please consider the following tips before deciding on a child care program:

- Visit several different child care programs (center or family child care homes).
- Call to schedule an appointment for your visit to ensure the director's full attention to your tour.
- Plan to visit for at least an hour to watch activities, check the surroundings, and ask questions.
- Bring this checklist with you to guide your visit.

The KY Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Office of Inspector General, Division of Regulated Child Care helps to monitor programs for compliance. Visit this website for more information: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/os/oig/drcc>

Should you see or hear something that concerns you while visiting a child care program, you have the right to contact the Division of Regulated Child Care with your concern and you can do so anonymously, if you prefer.

Supervision ✓	
Are children supervised at all times, even when they are sleeping?	
Are all areas of the child care space visible to staff at all times?	
Handwashing & Diapering ✓	
Do all caregivers & children wash their hands often, especially before eating & after using the bathroom or changing diapers?	
Do caregivers always keep a hand on the child while diapering?	
Do caregivers clean & sanitize the surface after finishing the changing process?	
Are the diapering & handwashing procedures posted at each diaper changing station?	
Director Qualifications ✓	
Does the director participate in regular professional development & continuing education opportunities?	
Has the director worked in child care for at least two years?	
Is the director present at the facility the majority of the day?	
Does the director understand how to best support your child's needs?	
Lead Teacher Qualifications ✓	
Does the teacher participate in professional development & continuing education opportunities?	
Has the teacher worked in child care for at least one year?	
Does the teacher give children lessons & toys that are appropriate for their ages?	
Staff-to-Child Ratio & Group Size ✓	
How many children are being cared for in the child care program?	
Are the staff-to-child ratios posted in a conspicuous place in the facility?	
Was the staff-to-child ratio appropriate during your visit?	
Did each child receive attention & get their needs met?	
Staff Training/First Aid ✓	
Have caregivers been trained how to keep children healthy & safe from injury & illness?	
Do they know how to do first aid & rescue breathing?	
Have they been trained to understand & meet the needs of children of different ages?	
Child Abuse ✓	
Have all caregivers undergone background checks?	
Have the caregivers been trained on how to prevent child abuse, how to recognize signs of child abuse, & how to report suspected child abuse?	
Is the facility's child abuse policy explained to parents?	

Immunizations ✓	
Is your child up-to-date on all of the required immunizations?	
Does the child care program have a policy which requires parents to provide up-to-date immunization certificates for their children upon enrollment?	
Facility Safety ✓	
Are toxic substances like cleaning supplies & pest killers kept away from children?	
Has the building been checked for dangerous substances like radon, lead, & asbestos?	
Is poison control information posted?	
Emergency Plan ✓	
Does the child care program have an emergency plan if a child is injured, sick, or lost?	
Does the child care program have first-aid kits?	
Does the child care program have information about who to contact in an emergency?	
Fire/Emergency Drills ✓	
Does the child care program have a plan in case of a disaster like fire, tornado, flood, blizzard, or earthquake?	
Does the child care program do practice drills once every month?	
Medications ✓	
Does the child care program keep medications out of reach from children?	
Are the caregivers trained & the medications labeled to make sure the right child gets the right amount of the right medication at the right time?	
Playground Safety ✓	
Is the playground regularly inspected for safety?	
Is the playground surrounded by a fence?	
If there is a sandbox, is it clean & covered?	
Are the soil & playground surfaces checked often for dangerous substances & hazards?	
Is equipment the right size & type for the age of children who use it?	
General Observations ✓	
Is a copy of the Parent Rights prominently displayed? Parent Rights are a good general framework for discipline, grievance procedures, etc.	
Is the facility's last licensing report posted in a conspicuous place? This report is a "report card" of how the facility is complying with state regulations.	
Is the facility participating in the Tiered Quality Rating System (TQRIS)? TQRIS helps to ensure children receive high quality care.	
What is the overall sound in the facility? Is the staff engaging the children in laughing, singing, & conversations?	