

10 Factors to Consider When Choosing a Childcare Center



KIDDIE JUNCTION
educational institute

Putting Early Education on the Right Track!

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1. Hours of Operation

You need to have enough time to drop your child off in the morning and still be able to get to work or appointments on time. A childcare center should be open early enough for you to do that. The center should also be open late enough so that you are not rushing from work.



2. Meals and Snacks

Making sure your child has the proper nutrition throughout the day is an important factor in choosing a childcare center. Make sure to ask the following questions regarding nutrition:

- Do you provide all snacks, breakfast and lunch?
- If they do provide snacks, breakfast and lunch, can they give examples of what will be given to my child?
- Does the center serve low-fat or soy milk, and whole or multi-grain products instead of white flour products? Is fresh fruit served?
- How will the food be prepared?
- How are food allergies handled?

- If they do not provide snacks and lunch, what types of food would they recommend to pack for my child? Can they heat up lunches if necessary?



3. The Ratio of Individual Staff Members to Children

Finding out the ratio of staff members to children should not be overlooked. When a staff member is responsible for fewer children, the more individual attention your child will receive.



4. Training, Licensing, Credentials, and Accreditation

A well-educated and experienced staff will provide high quality interactions and activities for your child. Make sure to ask the following questions when looking at a childcare center:

- Does the director have experience caring for children?
- Who is on staff? Is there a place to view staff biographies?
- How is the staff screened?
- Does each staff member have the right credentials and experience?
- Does someone have current CPR and first aid training?



5. Location

Is the location convenient for you? Is there plenty of parking? It is in a safe area? Is there good lighting? Are the sidewalks and walkways well maintained during bad weather?

Finding the right childcare center that is convenient and close by can make everyone's life a little easier during busy morning commutes!



6. Recommendations by Others

One of the best ways to measure the quality of a childcare center is by asking other parents for a referral. Does the center have a good percentage of children enrolled who were referred by other parents? Does the center do an annual parent survey to get parent feedback? If so, can you see the results of these surveys to know what existing parents are feeling?

Ask other enrolled parents about the experience their children are having and if they are satisfied with the quality of service, or check for parent testimonials on the center's website to hear what enrolled families are saying.



7. Drop-ins by Parents

You should always feel welcome to visit your child. There should be limited restrictions regarding when you want to see your child during the day. And an occasional visit by mom or dad can enhance your child's day!



8. Staff Turnover

High staff turnover can negatively affect your child. Young children thrive on consistency. The constant turnover of staff members interrupts a child's schedule and routine.

Building a trusting relationship with someone and having consistency helps make a child's day go much easier.



9. Curriculum

Familiarize yourself with each childcare center's curriculum. Ask each center how it prepares children for school. Are the teachers required to create a lesson plan for their class? Ask about the reasoning behind the chosen curriculum and its advantages.

Compare the different curriculums to each other and decide which one would benefit your child the most. The time your child spends each day at the childcare center will help to establish a lifetime foundation and enthusiasm for learning.



10. Convenient Payment Options

What kind of payments does the childcare center accept? Does the center accept credit cards including AmEx and debit cards? Does it offer automatic charging of your card or bank account for making payments? Does the center have discounts for paying monthly?

