



FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Comments

- The atmosphere of the Educator's home is warm and positive.
- The Educator greets me while still providing care for the children.
- The Educator's philosophy matches my personal philosophy.
- The Educator and children seem happy and relaxed.

WHERE WILL MY CHILD BE DURING THE DAY?

- The Educator's home is appealing and comfortable.
- What is the range of ages of the children in care?
- The home seems large enough for the number of children.
- What areas of the home are available for meals or rest time
- Where do children do "messy play"?
- Is there access to an area for nappy changing, hand washing?
- Is there somewhere for my child to store their belongings?
- Is the outdoor area adequate to meet my child's needs?

ABOUT THE PERSON WHO WILL BE CARING FOR MY CHILD?

- How long has the Educator been working?
- What are the qualifications (training and experience) of the Educator?
- What kind of on-going training does the Educator participate in?
- How does the Educator interact with the children?(Warm and caring; on eye level with children)
- How is child behaviour guided/discipline handled?

TOYS AND EQUIPMENT

- Are there enough?
- Are they safe and in good repair?
- Are they appealing and appropriate for my child's developmental level?
- Are they located so that my child can reach them?

IS THERE A DAILY SCHEDULE AND PROGRAMME INCLUDING TIME FOR:

- Indoor and outdoor activities
- Quiet and active times
- Small group, large group and individual activities
- Free time
- Will my child go on excursions/outings or playgroup sessions?
- If so, how is transportation handled?
- Will TV and computer games be used sparingly?
- How is rest time handled?

HOW WILL YOU KEEP MY CHILD SAFE?

- Does the Educator have First Aid and CPR certifications displayed?
- Are emergency exits clearly marked on fire evacuation plan?
- Are emergency procedures clearly defined and posted?
- Who conducts regular checks for hazards? (Evidence available)
- Does the Educator do quarterly fire drills? (Evidence available)

OUTSIDE YARD

- Is it properly fenced? _____
- Is it large enough? _____
- Is the equipment in good repair and appropriate for the ages of the children? _____
- Is there adequate shade? _____
- Is there water available for my child to drink? _____

HOW WILL YOU HELP ME KEEP MY CHILD HEALTHY?

- Is there a policy to ensure that ill children are not in care or are separate from other children? _____
- Does the home look and smell clean? _____
- Is food stored properly? _____
- Are there sinks, soap dispensers and paper towels in areas convenient to Educator and children? _____
- Does the Educator and children wash their hands frequently? _____
- Are medications handled appropriately? _____
- Are nappies changed frequently? _____
- Is the nappy changing area near running water and away from food storage or preparations areas? _____
- How often and in what manner are toys and equipment cleaned and disinfected? _____
- How is toilet training handled? _____

HOW WILL MY CHILD BE FED?

- Does the Educator provide meals and snacks or is that my responsibility? _____
- If I have to provide food, is there a refrigerator and microwave available? _____
- At what times are meals and snacks provided? _____

WHEN THE EDUCATOR IS PROVIDING MY CHILD'S FOOD?

- Does the menu seem appealing and nutritious? _____
- How are allergies or special diets accommodated? _____

HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM?

- Does the Educator have an open-door policy? _____
- Are there any activities or programs in which I am required or invited to participate? _____
- How will I get regular feedback on how my child is doing? _____
- How will the Educator communicate with you on a daily basis? (Verbal, bulletin boards, notes etc) _____
- Does the Educator have references that I could contact? _____

WHAT ARE YOUR PAYMENT POLICIES?

- Does the Educator have a standard contract for care? (Read it carefully) _____
- What days and hours may my child receive care? _____
- What is my fee for care and when is it due? _____
- Which days is the Educator not available (Public holidays, etc)? _____
- Will I be required to pay for days on which my child is absent? _____
- What happens if I am late picking up my child? _____
- How much notice must I give when changing/ terminating a contract? _____

AFTER YOUR VISIT:

After visiting the Educator ask yourself how you feel about the Educator and the environment, programming they are offering, Your instinct can tell you a lot. If you were unable to take your child on this initial visit plan another visit in which your child can join you and you can watch his or her reactions to the Educator and other children.