

What should I be concerned about when choosing a day care?

Choosing a child care center is often a stressful decision for working parents. When electing one day care over another, it's important to look for a safe and healthy environment where your child can continue to grow and develop. Parents are recommended to choose a licensed day care which gives them the option to view the day care's history. It's suggested that parents visit the day care and meet their child's potential caretakers prior to enrolling them. Request references and ask for the hiring qualifications when choosing a center. Make sure that the center's group size and child to staff ratios are not too large and that your children will receive close supervision. The day care should have policies in place regarding emergencies, visitors, illness, and nutrition. Ensure that your child's environment is child proof, clean, and contains age appropriate toys.

Parents should speak with day care staff regarding the center's goals and the typical daily schedule. Question staff about how they handle common behavioral problems such as hitting or biting in young children. Ensure that the discipline utilized is aligned with your own. Make certain that the day care center will accommodate your child's special needs. Request feedback from your day care provider about your child's behavior and activities during the day to ensure that they are adjusting to their new setting. Once you choose a daycare, continue to monitor how well your child is adapting.