

## Choosing Child Care - things to look for

Choosing childcare is one of the most important things you will do for your family! You want to look for a child care that is best suited for your child and a place you feel comfortable leaving your child. Always visit different programs and providers before you make a final choice. It is important to spend time observing how the provider interacts with children and parents. Look for positive interactions and look for providers who are open to having you visit and participate.

When visiting child cares we recommend that you:

### **Look & Listen!**

- Is the atmosphere bright and cheerful?
- Is the facility safe and clean inside & out?
- Are the children greeted upon arrival?
- Do the adults interact with the children in a caring, positive manner?
- Do the children seem happy and relaxed?
- Are there separate areas for resting, quiet play and active play?
- Are the activities appropriate for each age group?
- Are there enough toys and are they within reach of the children?
- How are behavior issues handled?
- Do the staff and children wash hands before eating and after diapering/toileting, etc.?
- Are meals nutritious and appealing?

### **Ask:**

- For a written copy of the policies
- For references and check them out
- Will I be able to visit unannounced at any time?
- Will I have the opportunity to speak with staff on a daily basis?
- What are the qualifications of the staff?
- What happens if my child becomes ill?