

START HERE

Choosing child care is a big decision. Use this checklist to compare programs, ask thoughtful questions, and choose care that feels safe, nurturing, and right for your child.

Warm, caring relationships

- ✓ Teachers greet children warmly
- ✓ Children seem comfortable and engaged
- ✓ Staff speak respectfully
- ✓ Families feel welcomed

Safe, clean environment

- ✓ Clean classrooms
- ✓ Secure entry areas
- ✓ Safe outdoor play spaces
- ✓ Visible health practices

Learning through play

- ✓ Books, art, movement, and hands-on learning
- ✓ Age-appropriate materials
- ✓ Balanced routines
- ✓ Children actively engaged

Questions to ask:

- What does a typical day look like?
- How do you help children adjust?
- How do you communicate with families?
- What are tuition or eligibility options?

Communication with families

- ✓ Questions answered clearly
- ✓ Updates shared regularly
- ✓ Families treated as partners
- ✓ Policies easy to understand

Practical fit for your family

- ✓ Convenient location
- ✓ Hours that meet your needs
- ✓ Cost explained clearly
- ✓ Enrollment steps simple

Trust your instincts

- ✓ I feel welcome here
- ✓ My child would feel comfortable here
- ✓ This feels like a good fit

Remember: It is your right and responsibility to choose care that feels safe, nurturing, and right for your child.

Need help finding child care?

Options for Learning offers free child referrals to families regardless of income. Call us at 626-699-8070 or visit www.OptionsForLearning.org to get started!