

A decorative graphic on the left side of the page consisting of several blue hexagons of various sizes and orientations, some overlapping, arranged in a vertical column.

# Child Care Checklist for Parents

## Basic Information

- The hours suit my schedule
- The fees fit my price range
- Meals and snacks are appetizing
- Transportation is available
- The group size and age grouping are acceptable

## The Environment

- The setting is clean and cheerful
- Children seem happy
- Staff members and children get along well
- There is a balanced daily routine
- Children are comforted when needed
- There are rules the children can understand and follow
- There is a safety plan to follow in emergencies
- Safety precautions are established
- Different kinds of space are available for quiet play, active play and outdoor play
- There is enough space for all activities
- There are enough books, paints, blocks, musical toys, games and puzzles, etc.
- Children can get things for themselves

## Staff

- They have been trained to care for children
- Most staff have been in the program for at least one year
- Disciplinary methods are acceptable
- They are warm and friendly
- Staff members take time to discuss a child's progress with parents regularly
- Children are treated as individuals
- In a family day home, ask how long the provider has been caring for children
- Staff members seem to have enough time to look after all children

## Parental Involvement

- Parents can visit unannounced
- Parents are involved in decision making
- There are opportunities for parents to be involved with the program
- Parents have a chance to speak with staff when they drop off and pick up children

## Final Considerations

- References are provided
- People who have used this service speak well of it
- I would be happy here if I were a child
- I feel comfortable leaving my child here

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For more information about Collaborative for Children, visit [www.collabforchildren.org](http://www.collabforchildren.org).