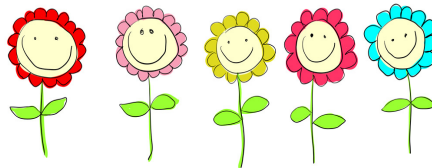
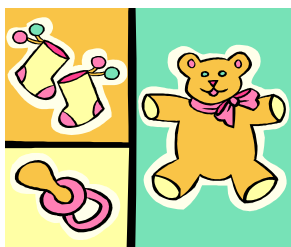


Choosing a Daycare

What you should look for:

- Ask for recommendations of a quality daycare from family, friends and neighbors.
- Request a list of licensed daycares from your county licensing agency.
- Visit prospective daycares for a tour and to observe how the staff interacts with the children.
- Make sure that the facility is open to parents for unannounced, unrestricted visits.
- Check the bathrooms for isolated areas. Find out who is allowed to take children to the bathroom and at what times. Make sure that there is both privacy for the children and allowance for supervision by adults.
- Make sure that there is proper supervision during naps.
- Ask about the training and education of the staff and volunteers. Determine if they conduct criminal background and substance abuse checks on employees. Find out if anyone has solitary access to the children.
- Find out if your child will have any interaction with people outside of the staff such as janitors, bus drivers or relatives of daycare staff. Make sure your child's contact with such people is limited and question your child about them.
- Determine what the staff-to-child ratio is and if it is in compliance with state licensing standards. When you visit unannounced, make sure the proper ratio is being met.
- Discuss how the discipline is handled, who administers it, under what circumstances, and what form it takes.
- Talk to your children each day about what happens at the daycare., paying attention to punishments used and why. Also ask if there is anything that makes them scared, uncomfortable or confused.



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