

QUALITY INDICATORS

USE THIS CHECKLIST TO ASK QUESTIONS AND
TO COMPARE THE PROGRAMS YOU VISIT.

1. KINDERBERRY HILL
2. _____
3. _____

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- Observe how the educators respond to the children.
- Are the teachers affectionate, responsive, and sensitive to the children?
- What are the (facility or classroom) rules and how do the children know what the rules are?
- Ask "what if" questions. (What if my child hits another child? What if my child doesn't listen during group time? What if my child will not take a nap? Etc.)
- What is your philosophy and policy on guidance and discipline?

Interactions Between Educators and Children

- Are there both written and verbal communications between the teacher and the parent regarding the child's day?
- How will the teacher keep me informed about my child's day?
- Is parent input welcome?
- Do you ask the parents how the program can be improved? Ask to see the results of any surveys parents and staff have been asked to complete.
- Are families able to visit at any time and encouraged to participate in activities? Tell me how you encourage families to participate in activities.

Parent Partnership

- Describe a typical day in your program. What activities are the children involved in?
- Does the curriculum concentrate on the cognitive, language, physical, emotional, and social aspects of development?
- Is there a balance between teacher-directed and child initiated activities?
- Do the children experience hands-on activities?
- Are TV and/or computers allowed? If yes, how much screen time (TV, computer, video games) is typical per day?
- Does the curriculum include an assessment of the child's development?
- What assessment instruments do you use? How often do you use them?

Curriculum and Child Assessment

- How many teachers have a credential, associates degree, or higher in early childhood education or a related field? (Inquire about the specific qualifications of teachers, especially your child's teacher.)
- How many hours of continuing training are teachers required to have each year?
- What training or education do teachers have related to child care and education services? (Ask about specific training topics.)

Teacher Education, Experience, and Training

- Based on your observation, is the space clean, safe, and comfortable for young children?
- Are there defined learning areas in the classroom?
- Are items displayed at the child's level so the child can easily choose toys and materials?
- How are the children supervised?
- Where will children wash, sleep, play, and eat?
- Are infants always put to sleep on their back on a firm, flat surface in a crib?
- How often do you take the children outdoors?

Physical Environment

- Can I drop in any time unannounced?
- Is there a security system to ensure a safe environment?
- Are meals nutritionally balanced?
- Do staff sit with children during meals while modeling appropriate behavior and using mealtime as a learning experience?

Health and Safety

- Do you have written policies, procedures, and contracts?
- Are your licenses posted (health, business)?
- Is your food menu posted?
- In addition to be licensed, is the center accredited?

Overall Program Management