

Tips For Identifying Quality in Child Care



- Are families and children welcomed and are children greeted in a loving, respected way?
- Is the overall atmosphere bright, cheerful, and child-focused without being overwhelming?
- Does the child care staff really listen to you and see your child as a unique and special individual?
- Are the child care providers and teaching practices responsive to differences in children's abilities, interests and experiences?
- Are the majority of planned developmental activities individualized or in small groups?
- Do learning materials, books, and pictures reflect diversity, including children with special needs?
- Has the program been inspected by a licensing agency within the last 12 months?
- Is the facility safe, secure, and physically accessible (i.e. ramps, accessible outside play area, bathrooms)?
- Are therapeutic services such as occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy provided on-site if possible?
- Are child care personnel willing to work with our and develop individual goals for your child and plans to achieve them?
- Are child care providers trained and experienced in CPR, first-aid, early childhood education, and special needs?
- Is communication open between staff and parents? Are providers always available to respond?
- Have satisfactory criminal background checks been conducted on each adult present?
- Does the program accept children who are not yet walking or toilet-trained?
- Do child care personnel perform child and family advocacy functions for you if necessary?
- Is there a daily balance of active and quiet activities? Are they right for each ability and age level?
- Are the sounds of children predominantly happy? Does it appear the children and adults enjoy being together?
- Are daily, weekly, monthly, and special even schedules shared with families?
- Are there enough learning materials and toys? Are they safe, clean, and within reach of all children?
- Is the program licensed and accredited? Does the facility keep accurate up-to-date records including safety, personnel, maintenance, and behavior issues?

Michigan Family to Family Health Information Center

(MIF2F) exists to share resources, information, and learning opportunities for families of children and youth with special health care needs across Michigan, and also for the community partners and healthcare providers who care for them.

MI F2F offers:

- Information and resources related to caring for a child or young adult with special healthcare needs.
- Parent peers and individuals with experience navigating the maze of special health care services and programs.
- A network of Family Leaders across Michigan to help us identify community supports and resources for families.

f2fmichigan.org



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