

River Child Care Services

SHOPPING FOR QUALITY CHILD CARE: CHILD CARE PROVIDER CHECK LIST

Please put a check in the box if the child care provider answers YES: to the question. Use the space in each box for YOUR notes. *This is only a very basic list of questions. YOU will probably have more to ask about your child's potential child care arrangements.*

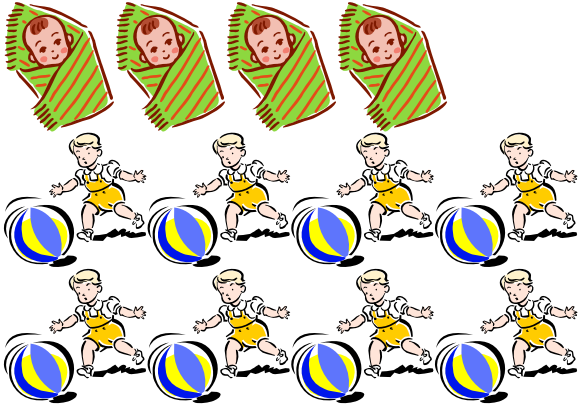
Important Questions to ask child care providers	Provider #1	Provider #2	Provider #3
	Name:	Name:	Name:
	Phone:	Phone:	Phone:
<i>Licensed child care facilities are businesses and should have important information available for you.</i>			
May I see your current license? <i>Facility number is:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you carry liability insurance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If not, do you have the required waiver forms signed by current clients?			
How many children do you care for at any one time?			
How old are they?			
Do you care for additional school-age children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
May I see your current disaster plan? Please explain how emergencies and disasters will be handled.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have, and may I see, your child care business contract? <i>If there is no written contract, make sure to ask the following questions:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1. What are your days and hours of operation?			
2. What are your fees for basic services?			
3. Is there an extra charge for picking up children late from child care?			
4. Are there other fees for any additional services?			
5. What help or back up assistance is available to the caregiver in case the caregiver is ill or has an emergency during scheduled care hours?			
6. How does caregiver determine if a child is too sick to come, or stay, in child care?			

7. What are the arrangements for sick children?			
8. Are children in your care transported by vehicle?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. If answer is yes: Does provider have current and adequate car insurance coverage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Do I need to leave my car seat for use by my child during care?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Are all transported children properly restrained in car safety seats/boosters?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Are children ever left in your vehicle unattended? (To do so is illegal.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>How much does the child care provider know about caring for children? How safe is the environment?</i>			
Critical Questions to ask Providers	Provider #1	Provider #2	Provider #3
Have you had special training or taken any classes on child development, nutrition, health& safety or working with children who have special needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a current CPR certificate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a current First Aid certificate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you participate in the Food Program?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can you accommodate special diets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do parents supply any food?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all areas where children have access safe and clean? For example: Are stairs gated, all medications and dangerous/poisonous materials locked up, electrical outlets plugged for safety, standing pools of water inaccessible? Are play clear of sharp corners or objects and low glass windows? Are floors, toys, bedding, etc. clean?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there any pets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all play areas kept free of pet dirt?			
Are there working smoke detectors installed properly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a fully charged fire extinguisher on site and accessible to care giver?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In addition to asking questions about costs and safety issues, it is equally important to observe how the caregiver interacts with the children she/he cares for and how children spend their time in care.

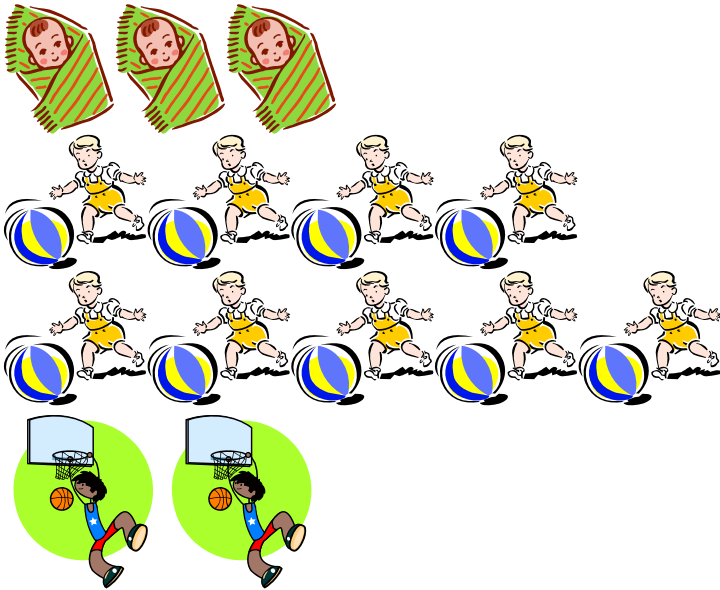
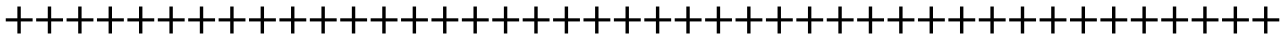
	Provider #1	Provider #2	Provider #3
Does the caregiver respond to all the children in a positive and warm way?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the environment look inviting and appropriate for children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do the children appear to be happy and busy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are children talked to respectfully and their basic needs attended to quickly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are infants and toddlers allowed to explore and play outside of a crib or playpen?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there activities, books and toys appropriate for the ages and developmental stages of all the children present?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there activities that help children develop good social skills?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In addition, is there room or are there arrangements for active play?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the caregiver encourage unannounced parent visits and parent participation in activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the caregiver provide both scheduled activities and time for free play?			
How much TV/video viewing is allowed?			
<p>Use these last boxes to “RATE” the child care providers you’ve interviewed. Visit any facility at least twice before enrolling your child.</p> <p><i>Parents have the right to examine the providers licensing information which is required to be maintained at the facility, and to licensing information maintained by the Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing at (707) 588-5026</i></p>	Provider #1	Provider #2	Provider #3

Licensed Capacity in LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES



Facility licensed for 12 children

4 Infants (0 to 24 mos)
and
8 older children,
for a total
of 12
children



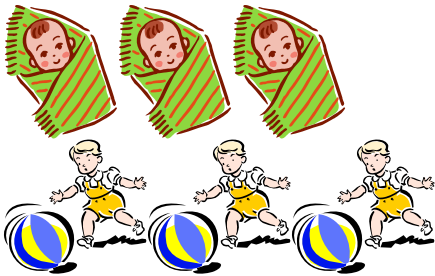
**Facility licensed for 12,
with signed Addendum for
2 school-age children**

3 infants
(0 TO 24 MONTHS),
&
11 older
children,
2 of which
must be
school-age
(6 years & older)

Licensed Capacity in SMALL FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES



OR

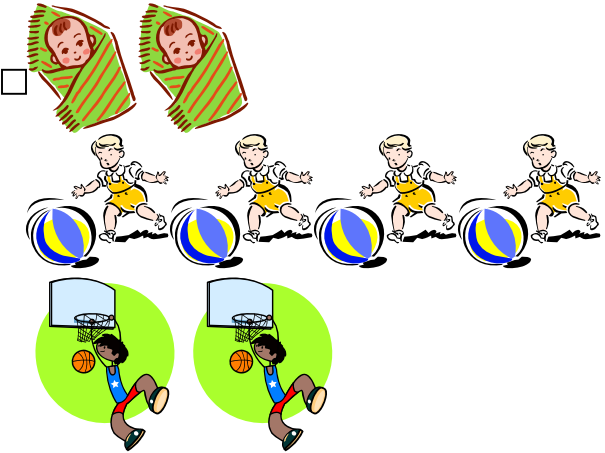
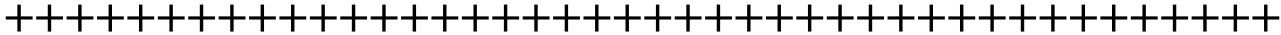


Facility
licensed
for 6
children

4 infants (0 to 24 month)

OR

6 children total,
of which
3 can be infants
(0 to 24 months)



Facility
Licensed
for 8

OR

Facility
Licensed for 6
Children
With a
Signed
Addendum
For 2 S/Age
children

With 8
children in
care, only 2
may be
infants &
2 must be
School-age
(6 years & older)