

Disclaimer: Free Resources

These resources are provided as a free tool for parents/guardians to support their daycare journey. They are intended for personal use only.

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Thank you,

Ashlee Huggins





Suggested Use:

Review all of the questions on the list. Pick your top 10 to ask during the interview. You are welcome to ask more or less, depending on what is important to you.

Finding the Right Child Care:

A Guide for Parents & Guardians

Question List

Licensing & Accreditation

- Who is the daycare's licensing body?
- When was the last inspection, and were there any concerns?
- Are staff certified Early Childhood Educators (ECEs), ECE Assistants (ECEAs), or Responsible Adults?
- What is the educator-to-child ratio?
- Are all staff trained in first aid and CPR?

Philosophy & Curriculum

- What is the daycare's philosophy on learning and child development?
- Does the centre follow a set curriculum, emergent curriculum, or a play-based approach?
- How does the daycare handle discipline and guidance?

Philosophy & Curriculum - Continued

- Are there structured learning activities, or is it more child-led?
- How does the centre support children's emotional and social development?

Health & Safety

- What are the illness policies?
- How does the centre handle medical emergencies?
- What are the cleaning and sanitation procedures?
- Is there a secure entry system to prevent unauthorized access?
- How are allergies and dietary restrictions managed?

Daily Routine & Activities

- What does a typical day look like?
- How much time is spent outdoors?
- What types of meals/snacks are provided? (Does the daycare accommodate dietary restrictions?)
- How does the centre handle naps/rest time?
- Are children allowed to bring comfort items from home?

Communication & Parent Involvement

- How do educators communicate with parents about their child's day?
- Is there an app or daily report for parents?
- Can parents visit the centre during the day?

Communication & Parent Involvement - continued

- Are there parent-teacher meetings or progress reports?
- How does the daycare handle transitions (e.g., starting daycare, moving to a new age group)?

Staff & Turnover

- What are the qualifications and experience of the staff?
- What is the staff turnover rate?
- How does the centre ensure consistency in care?
- Are there ongoing professional development opportunities for staff?

Cost & Availability

- What are the fees, and what is included (meals, field trips, supplies)?
- Is there a waitlist? If so, how long is the typical wait time?
- Are there any additional costs parents should be aware of?
- What is the policy on vacation days and absences?
- Has the centre opted into the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative?

Policies & Procedures

- What is the policy on late pick-ups?
- How does the centre handle closures due to weather or emergencies?
- What is the withdrawal policy?

Policies & Procedures - continued

- How does the daycare support children with additional needs?
- Is there an emergency preparedness plan in place?

Interview Questions

Write down your more important questions below.

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Notes:
