Your Child Care Visit Checklist



Bring this checklist with you when you tour a child care program.

Bring this checklist with you when you tour a child care program.

1. SAFETY & SUPERVISION

- ☐ Are children supervised closely, indoors and outdoors?
- ☐ Are the spaces safe, secure, and appropriate for young children?
- ☐ Are there clear procedures for emergencies, illness, medication, and picking up children?

2. TEACHERS & CAREGIVERS

- ☐ Do teachers or caregivers seem warm, attentive, and engaged with children?
- ☐ Are there enough adults to safely care for the children?
- ☐ Do caregivers know the children and respond to their individual needs?

3. THE SPACE & ENVIRONMENT

- ☐ Is the space clean, welcoming, and designed for children?
- ☐ Are there age-appropriate materials and places for children to play, explore, and rest?
- ☐ Do children have opportunities for outdoor play?

VISITING FAMILY CHILD CARE?

If ***Family Child Care*** is in a provider's home rather than a child care center, be sure to ask:

- ☐ Which areas of the home will children use? Are those spaces safe and secure?
- ☐ Who else lives in or regularly spends time in the home?
- ☐ How many children will be cared for, and how many adults will be present?
- ☐ What happens if the provider is sick or unavailable?

4. LEARNING & DAILY LIFE

- ☐ Do children have opportunities to learn through play, exploration, and conversation?
- ☐ Does the daily routine include a balance of active play, learning, meals, rest, and choice?
- ☐ Do activities seem appropriate for the children's ages, interests, and abilities?

5. PARTNERSHIP WITH FAMILIES

- ☐ How will the program communicate with me about my child's day?
- ☐ Can families ask questions, share concerns, and be involved in their child's care?
- ☐ Does the program welcome and respect my family's culture, language, and values?

—continued on back—

BEFORE YOU VISIT, DO A LITTLE RESEARCH

Visit **LouisianaSchools.com** (below) to learn more about the programs you're considering.

Check the program's license and inspection information.

Review available quality information about the program.

Write down questions about anything you want to understand better.

LouisianaSchools.com

TIP: A rating or inspection report is one piece of information—not the whole story. Your visit gives you a chance to see the program, meet the caregivers, and decide whether it feels like a good fit for your family.

Volunteers of America South Central Louisiana does not rate or recommend specific child care providers. Choosing child care is a decision each family makes based on its own needs and circumstances.

VOA SOUTH CENTRAL LOUISIANA

Your Child Care Visit Checklist — Visit Notes

NEED HELP CHOOSING CHILD CARE?

VOA Child Care Resource & Referral — free, customized referrals to child care providers in your area.

(225) 926-8005
or online:

Early Childhood Care Education
www.voascla.org

PARISHES SERVED:
Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson Davis, Livingston, Rapides, St. Helena, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Vermilion, Vernon, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana.

Volunteers of America South Central Louisiana does not rate or recommend specific child care providers. Choosing child care is a decision each family makes based on its own needs and circumstances.

VOA SOUTH CENTRAL LOUISIANA

QUESTIONS WORTH ASKING

What should I know about your program that I can't see during a visit?

What happens when my child is having a hard day?

How do you help children feel safe, known, and connected?

IF YOU ARE VISITING A FAMILY CHILD CARE — **Family Child Care** is child care in the provider's home rather than a child care center, and can look different from center-based care. Be sure to ask about the home environment, who is present, group size, and backup care.

MY VISIT NOTES

Program: _____ Date: _____

What I liked: _____

Questions I still have: _____

How did the program make me and my child feel? _____

Checklist adapted from ChildCareAware.org

There's no "perfect" child care program — look for a place where your child will be safe, cared for, known, and supported.

