



A HIGH-QUALITY CHILDCARE PROVIDER...*checklist*

... is loving and responsive

does the caregiver:

- enjoy responding to and interacting with your child?
- support and encourage your child in their relationships and skills?

... respects a child's individuality

does the caregiver:

- nurture your child with their development in mind?
- notice your child's personal traits and care for them with those traits in mind?

... provides a stimulating, child-friendly environment

is the childcare space:

- clean, safe, and organized?
- interesting, stimulating, and adaptable for free play and learning?

... is familiar with social emotional development

does the caregiver:

- provide curriculum or scheduled learning for your child?
- participate in training and professional development to best serve your child?

... has a relationship with you

does the caregiver

- create a welcoming atmosphere and communicate the importance of family involvement?
- communicate well with you as the child's parent?

WHEN SHOULD I START LOOKING FOR CHILDCARE?

Immediately. Do not wait until your second or third trimester. Most high-quality childcare providers have at least a 10-month infant waitlist.

HOW DO I USE THIS CHECKLIST?

This checklist is a tool to help you choose a high-quality childcare provider for your child. You can get the most out of your checklist by following these steps:

1

Start with the Nebraska Child Care Referral Network by visiting nccrn.org. This website can help working parents find childcare in their area for children from birth to age 12. Parents can search for providers based on certain criteria like environment, subsidy acceptance, childcare license type, age of children needing care, location, and more.

2

Call, visit, interview, and check testimonials and reviews of the childcare providers on your list. As you're gathering information, keep the elements of a high-quality childcare provider in mind.

3

Go through one checklist for each childcare provider. Check off the elements as you notice them in the environment and personnel you're dealing with. Using these criteria, choose a provider that best meets your family's needs.