



Steps to Take

1. Gather as much information as possible.
2. Determine your family's needs in terms of hours, location, days of year, and transportation.
3. Determine what type of child care setting is best for your child.
4. Call 4-C for a list of regulated child care in your area specific to your family's needs.
5. Visit at least three places.
6. Then LOOK, LISTEN, and ASK.

LOOK for signs of quality.

LISTEN to the tones of teachers and for sounds of happy children.

ASK questions to dig a little deeper.

Choose Quality

School Age Care

The Basics of Quality Child Care

Good child care requires three important things, a well-trained, consistent caregiver, a setting that keeps your child safe and healthy, and an environment that enhances your child's physical, mental, emotional and social growth. Think about the kind of child care settings that will best fit the needs of your child, and be aware of the differences between regulated child care and unregulated child care.

Observational Check List

- Indoor and outdoor areas are clean and safe.
- There is a place for children to store their personal belongings.
- A variety of age appropriate toys, books, materials and equipment are available.
- Rules are clear, simple and consistent.
- Children are not expected to sit quietly or wait for long periods of time.
- Planned activities are not an extension of the actual school day, but rather offer children recreational activities.
- Children have opportunities to make choices.
- Parents are welcome at any time, without prior notice.
- Children and parents are greeted warmly.
- Children look happy, active and occupied.
- Field trips and enrichment activities are offered.
- Caregivers have training specific to school age children.
- A nutritious snack is offered after school.