



York Home Childcare Agency

Licensing quality Childcare

Quality childcare programs make children feel safe, supported, and cared for. They support children's learning and development by building relationships with families and educators and providing an engaging and caring environment that helps children develop and grow.

Use these questions to guide your search for quality childcare that suits you and your child's needs.

Costs and availability

- Do you have space for my child? If not, is there a waiting list and how long is it?
- How much does it cost? Are there additional fees? Ask providers to explain extra costs, for example, if there are extra costs for holidays, sick days, late pick-up or application fees.
- Are there subsidized spots available at this centre?
- Do you offer full-time and part-time enrollment?
- How flexible are pick-up and drop-off times?
- How do staff and childcare providers communicate with parents and when can parents visit?

Health and safety

- Are you licensed or unlicensed?
 - How many children do you care for?
 - How do you ensure the health of children? For example, what are your cleaning practices and COVID-19 safety protocols?
 - What happens when a child is sick? For example, do you ask parents or guardians to pick them up or give them medications?
 - What safety measures are in place? Ask about fire extinguishers, smoke or carbon monoxide detectors, first aid kits, safety gates and plugs.
 - What is your emergency evacuation plan?
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Food and nutrition

- Do you offer an anaphylaxis plan for children with severe allergies?
 - What kinds of snacks and meals do you provide?
 - Is food prepared on-site or catered in?
 - Are certain foods not allowed on-site? For example, do you allow nuts or other allergens?
 - Can you accommodate our family's dietary needs?
 - Can my child bring food from home?
 - Is a fridge available for breast milk and is there a schedule for feeding?
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Learning and play

- What will my child do throughout the day?
- How do play materials support learning, creativity and social interaction?
- How do you encourage both indoor and outdoor play? How much time is spent outside?
- How are different cultural traditions integrated into the program?
- How are family members involved in the program?
- What happens if a child is angry or upset?

Look for:

- ♥ An environment that supports children's learning through play and exploration.
 - ♥ Family involvement that is welcomed and encouraged.
 - ♥ staff or a provider that has qualifications or training related to working with children.
 - ♥ Feel the environment – Does it feel safe and loving?
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Staff qualifications

- What qualifications or training do staff and providers have? For example, are staff registered Early Childhood Educators?
- Does everyone on-site have first aid certification including infant or child CPR?
- What happens when the staff or provider is sick or away?
- Do all staff have a clean Vulnerable Sector Clearance? (criminal reference check)