

4 Questions to Ask When Choosing a Child Care Provider

Parenting Tips and Tools from St. David's Center

Your child's development is impacted by the people and environment around him or her. For many families, this includes a daycare, nanny or babysitter, preschool or extended family.

When choosing a child care setting for your child, here are a few questions to ask:

1. Does the same child care provider look after your child for long periods of time?

- Having the same person look after your child helps to develop a close attachment.



Good to know: Infants form bonds early in their development as caregivers respond to their needs.

2. What is the caregiver-to-child ratio?

- Fewer children under the care of each adult means the caregiver has more time to nurture a relationship with your child.



Good to know: Social development in the first five years is linked to emotional wellbeing later in life and affect the child's ability to adapt in school and form successful relationships throughout life.

3. What is the level of education attained by the child care provider?

- Well-educated caregivers are more likely to be aware of the importance of secure attachments.



Good to know: Positive, secure attachments result in young children learning to trust and explore their world.

4. What is the environment of the child care center or home?

- You want to know your child will be safe and nurtured in a child care setting that is appropriate for young children and follows all safety and health standards.



Good to know: As a child grows, his or her emotional health is closely tied to the social and emotional characteristics of the environment.

Looking for more resources?

Contact CORE at 952.548.8700 or coreinfo@stdavidscenter.org.