

# Top Five Things to Consider When Choosing Childcare:

## 1. Education:

- You want to ensure that your child is learning and growing at all points throughout the day.
- Are curriculums and routines in place?
- Is the daily schedule posted and does it lend towards children growing in all aspects? (social and emotional skills, cognitive learning, language, literacy, gross and fine motor skills.)
- Are adjustments made based on individual children's needs and abilities?
- Are the activities and surroundings consistent with a nurturing atmosphere?
- Children learn 85% of everything that they are going to know by the time that they turn four, it is very important that their learning experience lays fertile ground for them to grow on.

## 2. Environment:

- You want to ensure that there is a great vibe when you walk in.
- Is the center neat and clean? Is it satisfying to the senses?
- Are the equipment, toys, and furniture in good repair?
- Are safety procedures being followed? (Are chemical in locked cabinets? Are cords stapled and out of the way? Are outlet plugs covered? Etc.)
- Do the classrooms seem to have enough space for the children?
- Do the children seem generally content, and as though they have the ability to enjoy themselves?
- Your instincts are very important, make sure that you feel good about the center before enrolling.

## 3. Communication

- You want to ensure that you feel comfortable to express thoughts and concerns to teachers as well as management.
- Are policies and procedures well communicated at time of enrollment, and do you have a useful understanding of how the center operates.
- Is there an open door policy allowing you to visit at any time?
- Are the teachers willing to work with you on problem solving to aid in your child's development?
- Is the management easy to find and approachable, do you feel like you can bring concerns to them, and they are quick to find a solution.
- You will be able to collaborate and cooperate through your communication, make sure that you feel comfortable to do so at any point.

## 4. Staff

- You want to ensure that the teachers at the facility are genuinely passionate about the children.
- How long have they been in childcare?
- Do they have any continued education in the field?
- Are they able to form a good relationship with your child and make them feel like they are an integral part of the group?
- Are they approachable and generally in high spirits?
- Your child's teacher can make all of the difference in their learning experience and developmental process.

## 5. Location

- You want to ensure that they childcare facility is in a convenient location.
- Is the center centrally located to your home and workplace?
- Is it in a safe area?
- Does the center look inviting, as a first impression does it feel approachable?
- Choosing a center in close proximity can reduce commute time and allow for time to visit the center if and when needed.