



# CHECKLIST for CHOOSING a QUALITY TODDLER PROGRAM

The toddler years are an exciting time of growth and emerging independence. It's important to find a child care setting that provides a rich and stimulating environment for their physical, emotional, social and intellectual development. Please use this checklist to help you make the right choice for your family.

## HEALTH and SAFETY

- Does the center have a secure entrance?
- Must visitors show an I.D. and sign in?
- Can I visit at any time?
- Is staff thoroughly trained in Universal Precautions for infection control?
- Are teachers certified in CPR and first aid?
- Are healthful meals and snacks served?
- How are allergies handled?
- Is the center professionally cleaned each day?
- Is the classroom easy to supervise?
- What is the emergency evacuation procedure? Do you practice it regularly?
- What is the illness policy? What is the toilet training approach?
- Are toys, materials and surfaces disinfected continuously?
- Is the diaper changing area safe and disinfected after each use?
- Does the teacher wash her hands and my toddler's hands frequently?
- Is there a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner on-call from The Children's Hospital?

## PROFESSIONAL, CARING AND LOVING STAFF

- Is staff trained and experienced in child development?
- Are there in-service trainings and other opportunities for advancement?
- Will my child have the same group of teachers consistently?
- Do teachers greet parents and children warmly when they arrive?
- Do teachers interact with children one on one and in a respectful manner?
- How do teachers approach discipline?
- Do teachers use a warm and pleasant tone of voice?
- Will my child feel loved, safe and happy?
- What's the average rate of staff turnover in the center?
- Is the center nationally accredited or star rated?

## THE TODDLER ENVIRONMENT

- Is there a wide variety of learning materials for toddlers to explore?
- Are toys stored at my child's level and easy to access?
- What is my toddler's day like?
- Is the room labeled with words and pictures?
- Is the room bright and cheerful without being overwhelming?
- Are family photos posted?
- How will you assist my toddler with his self help skills?
- Is there a curriculum for toddlers? How does my child learn?
- Are children enthusiastic and happy about learning and being at the center?
- Do toddlers play outside daily? Are there sunny as well as shaded areas?
- Are toddlers talked to, read to, and sung to?
- Does the program support early literacy, math and science activities?
- What program assessment tool do you use?
- Are music and movement part of everyday?

## COMMUNICATION

- Will I receive daily notes about my child's day?
- What kind of information will I receive?
- Can I call you during the day?
- How do you assess my toddler's development?
- Are teachers available to meet with me to discuss my child's portfolio?
- Do you offer any parent events or programs?
- Do you have resources for parenting concerns that we may have?
- Are our conversations confidential?
- Is there a parent group that I can join?
- How do we handle my child's transition to the Preschool Program?