Sonoma County Child Care Association

P.O. Box 11037   Santa Rosa CA   95406   Ph/Fax: 707.237.4911   www.sccca.info

A Guide to Choosing Quality Child Care

A successful child care arrangement requires a special effort between families and caregivers to ensure that each child will be able to grow and learn in a safe and healthy environment. In a quality child care environment, caregivers respond positively to differences in children's abilities, interests and experiences.

No one can make your child care decisions for you; only you know enough about your child, your lifestyle, and your needs to make an appropriate choice.

- ♥ Is the provider licensed?
- ♥ Does the environment have inviting toys and materials for children of all developmental and physical abilities?
- ♥ How are conflicts resolved?
- ♥ Is there outdoor play?
- ♥ Is reading a part of each day?
- ♥ Is there "messy play" such as painting, play-dough, sand/water…
- ♥ How often are the items used by children sanitized?
- ♥ Is TV/Video time limited?

- ♥ Are there materials available for children to use to practice drawing and writing such as paper, crayons, marking pens, chalk, colored pencils…
- ♥ For school age children, are there activities geared for their age and is homework time/help provided?
- ♥ How much experience does the provider have, and/or does the provider have early childhood education and training?
- ♥ Does the provider belong to a local Child Care Association?

Infant Care

In addition to the above, infants have many specialized needs to be considered:

- Are infants held when fed a bottle?
- Does the provider wash hands before and after changing diapers?
- Is there a carpeted area for infants to roll and crawl on, safely protected from other children?
- Does the provider use high chairs, swings or playpens, and how long are infants left in them?

To locate a quality licensed family child care home contact:

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Child Care Association**

**Web Based Referrals:
www.sccca.info**

**Phone Based Referrals:
707.237.4911**

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