



Sonoma County Child Care Association

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Family Child Care...

Building a Brighter Future One Child at a Time

Choosing Child Care... Questions to Ask A Provider

Your first step in choosing child care should be to contact a provider and find out more about his/her program and qualifications. Below are some questions you might consider asking when calling a provider. If you feel comfortable with your conversation, the next step is to set up a visit to tour his/her child care program. You can print this list to record your conversation you contact and keep it handy as a reference as you make this important family decision.

Provider's Name: _____ Phone: _____ Interview Date/Time: _____

Address: _____ E-Mail: _____

- Do you have a license?
- What ages do you care for?
- Do you have any current openings?
- Are you licensed as a small or large family child care home?
- How many children do you care for on an average day?
- Do you employ any assistants?
- Are you a member of a child care association?
- What experience, qualifications, or training do you have?

- Do you attend ongoing professional growth workshops or education?

- What is a typical daily routine/schedule?

- What is the philosophy of your program?

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Tell me about how you handle discipline and guidance:

- Do you have experience or training in identifying and working with children who have special needs?
- Do you have pets? If so, what kind?
- Do you transport or drive the children regularly?
- How much TV/Video time is included in the daily schedule?
- What kind of meals and snacks are served?
- Do you have a contract that covers fees, method of payment, illness, vacation?
- What are the rules about visiting your program?
- What are your fees?

Notes: