



Preschool CHECKLIST

STAFF

- Teachers have training in how children grow and learn and have experience working with preschool children.
- Teacher to child ratios are maintained at all times. State ratios are the law. See 4C brochure for details. For higher quality programs the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) recommends one teacher for every 10 children, ages three to five with no more than 20 children.
- Teachers talk to children at children's eye level.
- Teachers encourage children to learn new skills.

PROGRAM

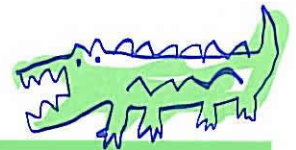
- Schedules and lesson plans are posted and show a good balance of quiet and active play offered each day.
- Teachers meet regularly to plan and evaluate the program.
- Public resources and services are used to enhance learning and the program.
- Children choose their own activities and toys most of the time.
- Different toys and supplies are offered that promote learning such as puzzles, books, games, cars, trucks and block play.
- Dress-up clothes and role-playing toys and supplies are available.
- Art supplies are creatively used and are not copies of the teacher's work.
- Children make music and/or listen to music.
- Children are encouraged to sing and laugh.
- Boys and girls play together.
- Several activities are usually going on at the same time.
- Children are encouraged to solve problems.

ENVIRONMENT

- Tables and chairs are child-size and cozy areas are made with soft materials.
- Supplies and equipment for indoor and outdoor play have a variety of age-suitable choices.
- Materials and equipment are in good condition and on low shelves.
- Reading center has a variety of age-suitable books.
- Outdoor play area is safe, both shaded and open, with room to run and climb.
- Group games and sports are offered that are age-suitable.
- Experiences such as sand and water play are provided.
- Toilets and sinks are child-size.
- Furniture is sturdy and child-size.

MEALS

- Meals and snacks are well balanced, nutritious and low in fat, sugar and salt.
- Teachers sit with children during mealtimes to promote language and social skills.
- Children are provided with chances to serve themselves.
- Menu of meals and snacks is posted.



WARNING SIGNALS

- Program does not encourage parents to observe.
- Children move about for 30 minutes or more without interaction with staff or being involved in an activity.
- Teachers spend most of their time scolding or controlling children.