

Older Toddler Child Care Checklist

Keep the following statements in mind when you are looking for a program for your older toddler or two-year-old, along with the advantages and disadvantages found in the First Steps booklet. You can discuss with the provider some of these statements directly; you will get answers to many of them just by observing the program. Add any questions or concerns you may have to this list.

About the Provider

- The provider encourages your child to practice self-help skills such as washing hands, setting the table, and picking up toys.
- The provider talks to your child in a respectful manner, listening to his or her words and expanding on them.
- The provider handles conflicts without losing patience, shaming a child, or frequently displaying anger.
- The provider takes time to talk to you about your child's progress and daily activities.
- Rules are stated frequently and in a positive way (i.e., "Our feet belong on the floor. We sit down on chairs," rather than, "Get off that chair!").
- The provider praises appropriate behaviors.
- The provider is understanding toward common two-year-old fears. The provider supports, reassures, and encourages children to explore new things.

About the Curriculum

- Materials such as puzzles, art supplies and peg boards are present to encourage fine motor development.
- The children have daily opportunities for creative expression through various forms of art and music. Art is viewed as an exploration of materials.
- The toys provided are safe, age-appropriate, and interesting to your child. They reflect a diverse population (i.e., gender, race, ethnicity, and disabilities). There are enough toys for the number of children in the group.
- The children regularly go outdoors to develop their large motor skills of running, climbing and jumping, and to express themselves freely and loudly.
- The provider encourages language development by speaking clearly and directly to the children. He/she responds quickly to your child's verbal inquiries.
- A daily schedule that contains large periods of play time and brief group time activities is provided.

About the Environment

- Your child has his or her own cot with sheets. The sheets are washed regularly.
- The diaper station is located where the provider can supervise the other children. The provider always wears gloves and washes hands.
- The bathroom is cleaned and sanitized daily. It is safe and appropriate for your child to use, equipped with potty seats and foot stools for toilet learning.
- The bathroom routine is consistent with your routine at home.
- The children are taken to the bathroom frequently to aid in potty training.
- The children wash their hands before and after meals and after using the bathroom.
- The environment is well lit and there is enough room for your child to move freely.