



Choosing Care for Preschoolers

- Is the ratio appropriate? 3 to 5 years 1:10
- Does the program promote a positive climate for learning by supporting children's ideas, and friendships?
- Is self-esteem fostered by allowing children to do things for themselves and feel successful?
- Is there a balance of active and quiet activities throughout the day and experiences planned for all areas of development (language, social, cognitive and motor)? Is there an expanded period of time (at least one hour) for children to engage in play or activities?
- Every day, weather permitting, is there an outdoor time?
- Do children learn primarily through play and hands on activities rather than teacher directed activities?
- Does the teacher/caregiver bring each child's home culture and language into the shared culture of the program?
- Does the teacher/caregiver opportunities for children how to learn to work together?
- Are staff qualified and trained in preschool development?
- Is there ongoing training for staff?
- How are parents involved in the program?
- How are rest periods for children handled?
- Does the teacher facilitate the development of self-control and social skills using positive guidance techniques such as modeling acceptable behavior, setting clear limits, redirecting children to more acceptable activities, and enforcing appropriate consequences for unacceptable behavior? Physical punishment and practices, which humiliate or demean children, are not appropriate. For example, how does the program handle children using unacceptable words?