KinderCare® Decision Guide

We know this is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. That's why we want to help you make the best choice, for both you and your child.

Use this handy worksheet as you visit and interview the places you're considering. Think about how each center nurtures the whole child (something we think we happen to do especially well).

The KinderCare® Way

We've been offering our own brand of passion, care, and learning programs to families all over the country for more than 40 years. Our goal is to give your child every opportunity to develop in a safe, stimulating environment that nurtures his or her every need. We are continually re-evaluating and upgrading our curriculum and centers to meet those needs along the way.

We Promise

* to bring our passion to learning and caring for your child—every day.
* you'll get a written or verbal account of how each day went.
* to make every moment a learning moment.
* we'll enthusiastically partner with you in the development of your child.
* we'll make learning fun.
* your child will have plenty of nutritious meals and playtime.
* a safe, clean, stimulating environment.
* to shape the whole child in everything we do.
* we'll listen and respond to anything that's on your mind.
* you'll feel good about your decision to trust KinderCare®.

What You Need to Know

1 KinderCare®	2	3	4	Above All Else
☐	☐	☐	☐	The teachers and staff really listen, and care.
☐	☐	☐	☐	The caregiver-to-child ratio will give your child plenty of individual attention.
☐	☐	☐	☐	The teachers have passion for what they're doing, and are continually developing professionally.
☐	☐	☐	☐	The center offers a research-based program that fosters confidence, self-esteem, and a love of learning.
☐	☐	☐	☐	There's a good balance of social, emotional, physical, and intellectual learning opportunities.

1 KinderCare®	2	3	4	
☐	☐	☐	☐	Playgrounds, classrooms, and the entrance of the building are clean and safe.
☐	☐	☐	☐	You'll get daily communication—both verbal and written—about your child's activities.
☐	☐	☐	☐	You're encouraged to drop in at any time to see your child.
☐	☐	☐	☐	Teachers meet with you on a regular basis to share your child's progress.
☐	☐	☐	☐	References from other families are immediately available.

Health & Safety

- ☐☐☐☐ Is there an evacuation plan in case of emergency?
- ☐☐☐☐ Are there safe pickup/drop-off procedures?
- ☐☐☐☐ Does the entrance have a trustworthy security system?
- ☐☐☐☐ Are there caregivers on-site trained in first aid and CPR?
- ☐☐☐☐ Are outdoor play areas safely fenced in?
- ☐☐☐☐ Are the menus nutritious and food choices varied?
- ☐☐☐☐ Do caregivers follow hand-washing techniques?

Teachers & Staff

- ☐☐☐☐ Are teachers trained for the age group that they teach?
- ☐☐☐☐ Can you tell children are learning in the classroom?
- ☐☐☐☐ Do teachers interact with children—both in small-group and large-group activities?
- ☐☐☐☐ Did you feel comfortable with the person who will take care of your child?
- ☐☐☐☐ Did you feel the teachers would partner with you in developing your child?
- ☐☐☐☐ Did you feel you could speak openly with the Center Director about anything concerning you?

Curriculum

- ☐☐☐☐ Is the day carefully planned for your child?
- ☐☐☐☐ Is the program adaptable for various levels of development?
- ☐☐☐☐ Do children engage in a variety of activities throughout the day?
- ☐☐☐☐ Do children learn social skills—such as sharing, taking turns, and getting along with others?
- ☐☐☐☐ Do children have ample time to play and explore?
- ☐☐☐☐ Is play used as a way to learn?
- ☐☐☐☐ Is quality literature used in the classroom every day?
- ☐☐☐☐ Do children play outside every day (weather permitting)?

Infants & Toddlers

- ☐☐☐☐ Are there individual cribs for each infant?
- ☐☐☐☐ Are there strict guidelines for sanitizing toys and surfaces?
- ☐☐☐☐ Are the toys safe?
- ☐☐☐☐ Are care, meal, and nap times personalized for your child's needs?
- ☐☐☐☐ Are play and daily routines used as opportunities for nurturing and learning?
- ☐☐☐☐ Do the toys and materials offer interesting and challenging activities?
- ☐☐☐☐ Does the center feel cozy and familial?

Preschool & Pre-K

- ☐☐☐☐ Does the curriculum prepare your child for school?
- ☐☐☐☐ Is quality literature used in the classroom each day?
- ☐☐☐☐ Are children read to at least twice a day?
- ☐☐☐☐ Are writing materials available?
- ☐☐☐☐ Are a wide range of instructional methods used, like small-group learning, whole-group learning, and individual learning?
- ☐☐☐☐ Do children get a wide range of hands-on learning experiences?

Kindergarten & School Age

- ☐☐☐☐ Is safe and reliable transportation provided to and from school?
- ☐☐☐☐ Is there an area where children can do homework after school?
- ☐☐☐☐ Is there a variety of fun and engaging activities for children to choose from?
- ☐☐☐☐ Do both the classroom and outdoor play area encourage creativity and independence?
- ☐☐☐☐ Are extra activities offered—like music, fitness, and Spanish?
- ☐☐☐☐ Is private kindergarten available?

Notes

1.877.KinderCare | www.KinderCare.com

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KinderCare LEARNING CENTERS