

# ***Guide To Choosing The Right Childcare/Preschool***



**TINY TREASURES**

*Child Care Learning Center*

**1513 McDonough Road Hampton, GA 30228**  
**PH: 770-471-9980**



## 1. Hours of Operation

You need to have enough time to drop their children off in the morning to get to work or appointments. A childcare center should be open early enough for you to do that. The center should also be open late enough, so you are not rushing from work.



## 2. Holidays and Other Closures

When looking for a childcare center, you should ask how often the daycare closes for holidays and other times during the year. You need to know whether you are still responsible for paying for the weeks or days the center is close and if you are responsible for finding other childcare.



### 3. Meals and Snacks

Making sure your child has the proper nutrition throughout the day an important factor in choosing a childcare center. Make sure to ask the following questions regarding nutrition:

- Do you provide breakfast, snacks and lunch?
- If they do provide breakfast, snacks and lunch, can they give examples of what will be given to my child?
- How will the food be prepared?
- If they do not provide snacks and lunch, what types of food would they recommend to pack for my child? Can they heat lunches up if necessary?



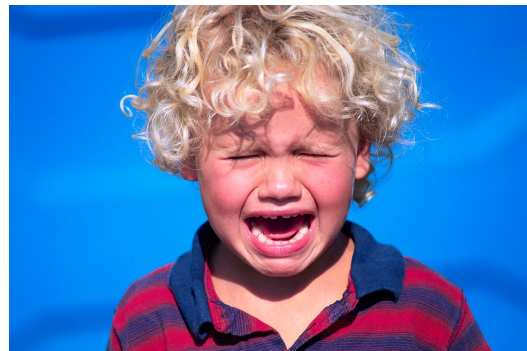
### 4. Daily Schedule

What does a typical day look like? What types of activities will your child participate in? Is a daily schedule available for parents? Getting an idea of the daily schedule will help you determine whether your child will enjoy his or her day.



## 5. Communication

How does the staff communicate with parents about what is happening? How will they report to you about any problems they are having? Do they encourage feedback from parents? How would they like to receive feedback? Open communication can help improve your child's overall experience.



## 6. Discipline Philosophy

It is important to know how the staff will handle misbehavior. What system is in place to discipline children and teach them right from wrong? Does the staff avoid yelling, or other negative punishments? Negative behavior sets bad examples for children. What positive reinforcement tools does the center use? Using positive reinforcement techniques helps to prevent future misbehavior.



## 7. Fields Trips

You need to know whether your child will be traveling away from the facility at any time for a field trip. How often do field trips happen and how far do they go? How much notice are you given if they are going somewhere? Whether it is for a field trip or another reason, you need to know the procedure if your child is away from the childcare facility.



## 8. Nap Time

Depending on the age of the children, you need to know how often your child will take naps during the day. Ask how long is naptime and how flexible is the napping schedule? Since each child is a little different, napping schedules for each will most likely vary. A disruption in naptime can disrupt a child's overall sleep schedule.



### **9. Diaper Schedule/Potty Training**

If your child is still in diapers, ask if the staff changes the diaper when it is needed or is diaper changing done on a timetable? Will the childcare help with potty training? Is potty training included in the regular fee or is it an extra cost? What is the schedule for potty training?



### **10. The Ratio of Individual Staff Members to Children**

Finding out the ratio of staff members to children should not be overlooked. When a staff member is responsible for fewer children, the more individual attention your child will receive.



## 11. Training, Licensing, Credentials and Accreditation

A well-educated and experienced staff will provide high quality interactions and activities for your child. Make sure to ask the following questions when looking at a childcare center:

- Does the director have experience caring for children?
- Who is on staff? Is there a place to view staff biographies?
- How is the staff screened?
- Does each staff member have the right credentials and experience?
- Does someone have current CPR and first aid training?
- How does the childcare center conduct its own training on an ongoing basis?
- Does the staff continue to receive training about the changes in childcare industry?



## 12. Age Divisions

How are students grouped together? Are they kept within the same age range? How big are the groups? Socializing children is an important part of child development. Knowing who and how your child will be socializing will help you understand more about a childcare center.



### 13. The Facility

Make sure to inspect the layout of the facility for cleanliness and organization. Is the layout open for children to play and crawl? Also, look for cleanliness and ask about the daily cleaning routine. You can check the center's inspection results using Bright from the Start – Department of Early Care and Learning website.



### 14. Location

Is the location convenient for you? Is there plenty of parking? It is in a safe area?



### **15. Equipment, Toys and Learning Tools and Instruments**

There should be a variety of toys and learning tools and instruments for kids of every age. Make sure to ask about any sports or playground equipment and look at the condition of each to make sure they are safe.



### **16. Drop-ins by Parents**

You should always feel welcome to visit your child. There should be limited restrictions when you want to see your child during the day.



### **17. Attitude/Energy**

Is the staff warm and welcoming? Do they pay individual attention to each child? When you walk in the facility, is it total chaos when you walk in? Children will thrive in an environment that is controlled, engaging and supportive.



### **18. Recommendations by Others**

One of the best ways to measure the quality of a childcare center is by asking other parents for a referral. Also, when you are visiting a center, talk to parents of children who are ready enrolled. Ask about the experience their children are having and if they are satisfied with the quality of service.



### 19. Staff Turnover

High staff turnover can negatively affect your child. The constant turnover of staff members interrupts a child's schedule and routine. Building a trusting relationship with someone and having consistency helps make a child's day go much easier.



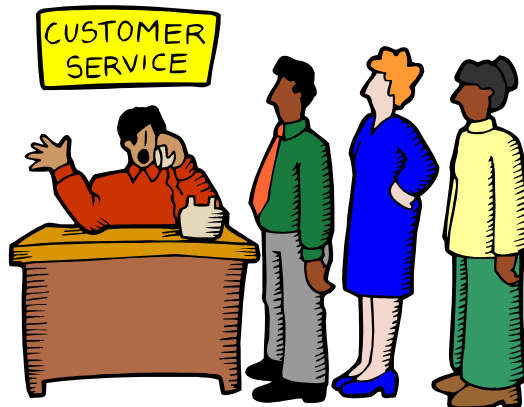
### 20. Cost

Cost structures of childcare centers vary. Some charge by the week, while others charge a monthly fee. A childcare center may also offer a discount if you enroll more than one child. Make sure to clarify how a child center will charge you and any discounts you may qualify for.



### 21. Sick, Injured or Missing Child Policy

A childcare centers should have a plan in case a child becomes sick or injured. How are staff members trained to handle a sick or injured child? Also, ask what procedures are in place in case a child goes missing?



### 22. Complaints

Check for any complaints against a childcare center by looking at the Better Business Bureau's website. If you find any complaints that should automatically send up a red flag.



### **23. Safety & Security**

Inquire about how medicines, cleaning supplies, and other poisonous materials are stored. Ask if the center has a plan in case of disasters. Also, ask each childcare center to explain who has access to the facility and how people can leave and enter the building.



### **24. Parent Handbook & Orientation**

Every childcare center should have policies and procedures in place and should be able to sit down with you to explain their policies and procedures to make sure you understand how they govern their facility. Before choosing a center, make sure to ask for a parent handbook and look through it. A parent handbook should have all the childcare center's policies and procedures. Anything a parent should know should be in the handbook. If a childcare center does not have a parent handbook, then you may not know what is going on.



## **25. Curriculum**

Familiarize yourself with each childcare center's curriculum. Ask each center how it prepares children for school. Ask about the reasoning behind the chosen curriculum and its advantages. Compare the different curriculums to each other and decide which one would benefit your child the most. The time your child spends each day at the childcare center will help to establish a foundation for learning.



***THANK YOU!***

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