



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

A CHECKLIST FOR YOUR CHILD CARE SEARCH

This list is intended for use as a guide when interviewing prospective child care providers.

_____ **What are the qualifications?** Is the program licensed and/or accredited? What educational and real-world experience do staff have in working with children?

_____ **When are the operating hours?** Are they closed for holidays and what happens during inclement weather?

_____ **What are the costs?** What is the tuition and is it billed daily, weekly or monthly? Are there extra fees for early drop-offs or late pick-ups, or for meals? Do they offer financial assistance?

_____ **How will my child be supervised?** What are the ratios of staff to children? Do they have a plan in place if a staff member calls out sick?

_____ **How will my child be kept safe?** Is the building secure? What are the procedures for drop-offs and pick-ups and how do the staff keep track of kids who are there? Are there regular safety drills? Also, are staff trained in CPR and other first-aid? Ask if they've undergone background checks and are trained in spotting and reporting signs of child abuse.

_____ **Does my child have opportunities to learn and grow?** Is there a daily schedule and how much time is provided for playing, reading, eating and napping? Do they provide a space or other opportunities for outdoor play? Are there enrichment classes as part of the curriculum, or at an additional cost? Also, does the program have a policy on technology use?

_____ **Is the environment clean and healthy?** When are children and staff required to wash their hands? How often are the toys and other equipment cleaned? Also, what's the policy on sick children and staff as well as vaccinations?

METROPOLITAN YMCA OF THE ORANGES

139 E McClellan Ave. Livingston, NJ 07039

MetroYMCAs.org

How are my child's individual needs met? As a family, it's important to identify what your child's needs are and discuss them with the provider before making a decision. Also, how does the program handle allergies or other dietary restrictions?

How are cultures and customs honored? How does the program respect cultures and customs and incorporate them into the classroom? Also, what is the primary language used by providers and are they able to communicate or provide materials in other languages?

How do I know how my child is doing? How does the provider communicate with parents? Also, how do they contact family members in emergencies? Do they offer opportunities for parents to visit their children and join them in activities?

What is the discipline procedure? What happens if your child misbehaves or is hurt by another child? It's good to ask about the specific ways in which good behavior is encouraged and how bad behavior is punished.

Do you have references? Some child care centers will keep a list of testimonials or contact information for people who can provide feedback. It's always helpful to hear from other families who've had children in the program.

Contact your local Y branch for more information about child care programs.

EAST ORANGE YMCA

100 North Arlington Ave. East Orange, NJ 07017
973-673-5588

GREATER BERGEN COUNTY YMCA

360 Main St. Hackensack, NJ 07601
201-487-6600

SOUTH MOUNTAIN YMCA

Early Childhood Learning Center
10 West Parker Ave. Maplewood, NJ 07040
973-762-4154

WAYNE YMCA

1 Pike Dr. Wayne, NJ 07470
973-595-0100

WEST ESSEX YMCA

Peanut Shell Early Childhood Learning Center
7 Regent St., Suite 706 Livingston, NJ 07039
973-533-1511