INTRODUCTION:
Choosing child care is a difficult job. There is no magical way of knowing if a child care program is right for you and your child. If you were a parent looking for child care what aspects of the program would you feel were most important to consider? Obviously, each of us would have a different list of priorities. The most important thing a parent can do when selecting child care is to visit the facilities for a few hours in the morning. How will one know if this is the appropriate change for your child and your? First, you need to think about the overall philosophy of the program. Is it suited for your lifestyle? Would you feel comfortable leaving your child in the environment? Usually, you can get a feel for the center or home after several hours. Of course, what most important is “What is your gut feeling about the program?”

ON RELATIONSHIPS:

Does the Care Taker:
- Appear to be warm, friendly, calm and patient?
- Seem to have a sense of humor?
- Seem to be someone with whom you can develop a relaxed, sharing relationship and whom your child would like?
- Have child-rearing attitudes and methods that are similar to your own?
- Handle difficulty children in a manner you approve of?
- Treat each child as a special person
- Understand what children can and want to do at different stages of growth?
- Encourage good health habits?
- Talk to he children and encourage them to express themselves through words and creative activities?
- Help your child to feel good about her/him self?
- Help your child learn to get along with and to respect other people?
- Give enough attention to all the children?
- Have previous experience or training in working with children?

ON THE PROGRAM:

- Do the children look happy?
- Are the children encouraged to resolve conflicts in an acceptable manner?
- Are the right materials and equipment on hand to help the children learn and grown mentally and physically?
- Do the activities encourage the children to think things through?
- Are there routines and rules the children can understand and follow?
- Is there time to play alone and also to interact with friends?
- Is there an education program and philosophy?
- Is there a schedule that is flexible?
- Are there nutritious meals and snacks?
- Do the children experience success frequently?
- Do adult staffs cooperate with each other?
- Are parents involved In the program?
- Is the cost within your budget?
- Can you visit anytime?
- Is transportation available?
ON PHYSICAL ASPECTS:

• Is there an up-to-date license?
• Is the center/home attractive, clean, and well-lit with safety in mind?
• Is there enough equipment, and materials?
• Is the equipment safe, suitable, and in good repair?
• Are there laces to play quietly and actively indoors and out?
• Is there enough space indoors and outside so all the children can move freely and safely?
• Is there a place for a child own belongings?
• Is there a safe child-oriented outdoor play area?
• Are there first aid supplies, fire extinguishers and emergency number conveniently located?

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

If Your Child Is An Infant or Toddler:

• Is there care for tour baby’s physical needs such as feeling and diapering?
• Is there time spent holding, playing and talking with you baby?
• Is care provided you can count on so your baby can learn to trust and feel important?
• Is the setting “Child Proof” so that your toddler can crawl or walk safely?
• Are there a variety of activities and materials that are age appropriate?
• Are there a variety of toys available for developing skills?

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