

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMPARING CHILD CARE OPTIONS

Before visiting or interviewing for childcare possibilities, read through the checklist on the opposite side to remind you of factors to be considered. You may want to copy the checklist so you can compare options.

Some items on the checklist may not apply to all types of child care options, but it's helpful to consider each item carefully before deciding whether it applies. For example, if you are interviewing for at-home caregivers or nannies you might, on first thought, disregard the whole "facility" section. It could actually be very important to consider how an at home caregiver will deal with situation in your home. If comparing childcare facilities, family home care and caregivers in your own home, you will want to consider the "group size" item for each option. Are you child's needs best met by individual adult care or is the stimulation of other children preferable? Consider each item when looking for childcare options.

During a visit or interview your attention to what you see and hear is most important.

The space below is provided for recording each option's name and location, and to make notes or record observations and perceptions that don't fit neatly into your checklist. Use open-ended questions and document perceptions of each facility. If you need more information, you should visit or interview again until you feel comfortable with your choice.

OPTION #1

Name _____
Location _____
Comments _____

OPTION #2

Name _____
Location _____
Comments _____

OPTION #3

Name _____
Location _____
Comments _____

OPTION #4

Name _____
Location _____
Comments _____
