

# Child Care Cues

## *What Every Parent Should Know*

### **Infants: Birth through 12 Months**

Your infant's brain is growing at a rapid rate. When you speak to your baby or hold and cuddle her in a positive way, the developing brain grows healthy.

Your infant is learning facial expressions, body gestures, and trying to vocalize for attention. He is actively learning by observing the world around him. Eye contact is very important, this helps your infant develop a relationship of trust.

Playing with your infant with brightly colored objects helps her grow. Babies need toys that have sounds to stimulate the auditory senses. A variety of textures to touch, soft, bumpy, rough, etc. add interest to baby's play things. Playing music and reading books adds quality to your child's world as well.

The following lists will help you make sure your infant's child care environment reflects the quality standards you maintain at home.

### *Your Child's Physical Environment*

- ✓ Are there brightly colored toys? Do some toys have interesting textures or make fun noises? Are play things easy to grasp and hold, can some of them be stacked?
- ✓ Are the toys clean, safe and age appropriate?
- ✓ Are the toys placed on a clean floor where your infant can reach them?
- ✓ Where will your infant sleep? How will the care giver monitor you child during naps? How is bedding stored and how often is it cleaned?
- ✓ Where is the changing table located, is it easily cleaned? Can the provider still see all the children as they are changing your infant?
- ✓ Is there a place for your infant's belongings, separate from the other infants?

### *The Child Care Program*

- ✓ What is the cost and what is included in the price? What is the late policy?
- ✓ What is the policy on sick children? What will happen to the children if the provider is sick?
- ✓ What are the hours for infant care? What is the adult infant ratio?
- ✓ How often will your child's diaper be checked and changed? Does the provider use gloves and wash their hands immediately after changing a diaper?
- ✓ Are each child's food and bottles labeled and stored properly?
- ✓ Does the provider administer medicine? Is the medicine labeled with the child's name in the original container with the Dr.'s information listed? Does the caregiver keep a record of when the medicine is administered? Is the medicine kept out of reach and stored properly?
- ✓ Will the provider hold your infant while being bottle feed?
- ✓ Will you be supplied with a schedule of the day's events? Are you allowed to stop by and visit your infant during the day?

### *Observation*

- ✓ How often do the infants go outside to play? Is the outside area safe and clean with adequate toys? Is it closely supervised?
- ✓ Does the provider interact positively with the infants?