

Child Care Cues

What Every Parent Should Know

Toddlers: 12 Months To 24 Months

Your toddler is now able to communicate his needs and wants without crying. You may notice your child learning new words at a rapid rate! Development of speech and language contributes to more complex thinking and learning abilities.

Your toddler will enjoy your attention and generally seeks your approval. Toddlers are full of energy and enthusiasm. Having easy to understand rules to follow will help him learn and grow.

Your child's play is becoming more imaginative and creative. It is important to provide him with opportunities for dramatic play.

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

Physical Environment

- ✓ Is the environment clean and safe for the toddlers to play?
- ✓ Are there age appropriate toys for the toddlers to play with? For example, toddler books, dolls, balls, Legos, hand puppets, shopping carts, etc.?
- ✓ Are the toys and supplies organized and labeled with the word and the picture?
- ✓ Are toys and supplies where the toddlers can reach?
- ✓ Is there child-sized furniture?
- ✓ What is the policy on naps? Where will your toddler sleep? How will the care giver monitor you child during naps? How is bedding stored and how often is it cleaned?
- ✓ Is the environment pleasing and inviting to the toddler?

Program

- ✓ What is the cost and what is included in that price? What is the late policy?
- ✓ What are the hours for toddler care? What is the adult to toddler ratio?
- ✓ What is the policy on sick children? What will happen to the children if the provider is sick?
- ✓ What kinds of meals are served? Will there be snacks provided?
- ✓ 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?
- ✓ 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? Does the caregiver clean the changing table after each child?
- ✓ What is the provider's policy on toilet training? Does it reflect your own?
- ✓ Will you be supplied with a schedule of the day's events? Are you allowed to stop by and visit your toddler during the day?
- ✓ What kind of activities will your child be doing? Will they be allowed to play outside, go on walks and field trips?
- ✓ Are there activity centers for the toddlers to play in? For example, dramatic play area; Lego area; reading area; sand and water table; etc.?
- ✓ Will your child be read to?
- ✓ What is the discipline policy?
- ✓ Are the children allowed to make some choices through the day?

Observation

- ✓ How do the caregivers interact with the toddlers? Do they show respect and acceptance toward each child by listening and talking to them?