

Child Care Cues

What Every Parent Should Know

Two-Year Olds

Your two year old can be a challenge, but a lot of fun to work with. She may become frustrated more often, because she is constantly trying to master new tasks and skills.

Your two year old is also trying to gain her independence (autonomy). She will learn through exploration, imitating others and pretend play.

Your two year old will need clear limits to follow. She will like to help make those rules. Hang them where they can be seen all the time.

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

Physical Environment

- ✓ Are the toys and materials organized and labeled with the word and the picture on them?
- ✓ Are these materials low and accessible to the children?
- ✓ Are there a large variety of toys for your child to play with?
- ✓ Do they have small climbing toys to climb on?
- ✓ Are there duplicate toys to prevent fighting over one toy?
- ✓ Is the outside play area clean, safe and well supervised? Are there toys and equipment for your child to play with outside?
- ✓ Are the rules written and hung up where your child can see them?
- ✓ Is there a place for your child to put their personal things, like a cubby?

Program

- ✓ What are the hours of business?
- ✓ What is the cost and what is included in that price? What is the late policy?
- ✓ What kinds of meals are served? Will there be snacks provided?
- ✓ What is the policy on sick children? What will happen to the children if the provider is sick?
- ✓ Does the provider have a written schedule for each day?
- ✓ What is the provider's policy on toilet training? Does it reflect your own?
- ✓ Will your child be given enough time for her activities?
- ✓ Will your child be allowed to choose her own activities for some of the day?
- ✓ Does the provider have different play/learning centers for your child to play in? Does the provider have materials supplied for each center?
- ✓ Are there scheduled times for music, singing and dancing?
- ✓ How often will your child be allowed to play outside?
- ✓ Will your child get to go on field trips?
- ✓ What is the policy on discipline? Is the discipline fair, age appropriate? Are positive strategies used that will encourage self-esteem and self-control?
- ✓ Are the rules for your child clear, easy to understand, fair, consistent, but yet flexible when needed? Will children be encouraged to try things on their own?

Observation

- ✓ Are the adults interacting positively with the children?
- ✓ Do the caregivers give praise to the children for tasks achieved?
- ✓ Is there positive, caring guidance and encouragement?
- ✓ Do the caregivers encourage the children to explore their world around them, by asking questions and commenting on their new knowledge?