

Questions To Ask References for a Family Home Daycare

References can be a helpful tool in helping you make your final decision about a childcare provider. Most parents are more than happy to share information with other parents, and nothing is more convincing than hearing how other parents rate their care. Ask each daycare you're considering for a list of past and present references. When you call, ask specific questions; instead of asking whether they like the daycare, ask what exactly they like about it and what they don't. Also, ask open-ended questions so the parent can share his/her thoughts in an unrestricted way. When you call the references, ask the following questions, and don't be shy; be proud of being a careful parent who is doing a great job selecting the best child care program for your child!

Enrollment/Fees

How old is your child? _____

How old was your child when you enrolled him/her in the home daycare? _____

How long has your child been enrolled in the home Daycare? _____

If their child is no longer in the provider's care, ask why? _____

How long have you known the provider? _____

Are changes in the fees communicated to you well in advance? _____

Have you had any problems with the way the provider charges or collects fees? _____

General Questions

Have you/your child experienced an emergency situation at the daycare? How was it handled? _____

Do you feel that the provider stays calm (or would stay calm) in an emergency? _____

How much notice do you receive when the provider has a scheduled vacation or holiday? _____

How does the provider discipline your child? _____

Have you ever disagreed with the way your child was disciplined? _____

How much turnover of families have you seen since you have been there? _____

How is the provider's home kept on a daily basis? Clean/dirty? Organized/messy? _____

Are your child's basic needs met every day? Diapering? Feeding? Rest time? Kept clean? _____

Communication

Is it easy to talk to the childcare provider? _____

Do you feel comfortable expressing your thoughts to the provider? _____

Does the provider keep you well informed about your child's development? _____

How does the provider communicate with you? On a daily/weekly basis? _____

How does the childcare provider deal with problems or concerns? In a Professional manner? _____

Do you feel welcome to stop in at any time? _____

Does the provider respect your values and culture? _____

Does the provider partner with you and your efforts to raise a healthy and happy child? _____

Provider Profile

How is the provider's attitude on a daily basis? Consistently happy? Enthusiastic? _____

Is the provider dependable and reliable on a daily basis? _____

How well does the childcare provider handle stressful situations? _____

How well does the childcare provider relate to the children? _____

How does the childcare provider treat your child? _____

Is the provider accommodating and flexible to your child's individual needs? _____

Does the provider make you and your child feel comfortable in his/her home? How? _____

Child's Perceptions

Does your child enjoy his/her time spent at the home daycare? Does he/she have fun? _____

Is your child happy when you pick him/her up? _____

What does your child like best about the home daycare? _____

How does your child feel about the childcare provider? _____

If healthy meals/snacks are provided, does your child like the various foods given to him/her? _____

If a preschool curriculum is provided, how well does your child learn? How much? _____

Parent's Perceptions

What is your perception of the provider's personality? Kind? Honest? Professional? _____

What do you like best/least about the childcare provider? _____

What are your favorite aspects of the home daycare? _____

If you could change anything about the home daycare what would it be? _____

Do you feel that your child gets individual attention from the provider? _____

Do you feel that your child has benefited from his/her experiences with the provider? How? _____

Would you recommend this childcare provider to a friend? Without reservation? _____

Would you choose this childcare provider again? _____

Do you wholeheartedly trust the childcare provider? _____

Notes

