



## Choosing Care for Infants & Toddlers

- Is the ratio appropriate for infants and toddlers?  
Birth to the age of 16 months 1:4  
16 months to 2 years 1:5
- Is the environment childproofed with outlet covers, safety buckles on highchairs, nontoxic toys, toy pieces no smaller than a toilet paper tube opening, no use of walkers and other safety precautions?
- Is the environment healthy? Are there sanitary changing and feeding procedures in place?
- To encourage language development, are infants and toddlers talked to and read to even though they are not talking? Do the caregivers explain what is happening rather than just silently caring for children?
- Are children encouraged and supported in self-help skills such as eating and dressing?
- Are there procedures in place, which will give you information on how, your child ate, slept, and played each day?
- Do babies eat and sleep when they are most comfortable doing so? Babies should always be put to sleep on their backs or sides.
- Can caregivers see and hear children at all times?
- How does the program handle temper tantrums, biting and toilet training? Policies should help children grow and feel good about themselves. Physical punishment and time out is not appropriate for infants and toddlers.
- Does the staffing schedule allow children to bond with one primary caregiver?
- Are there staff members at the program who share your culture and language?
- How are parents involved in the program?