

## Choosing Quality Childcare for Children

- I. Locating a center:
  - A. Speak with Director or home care provider in person
  - B. Ask all questions which are pertinent for that child
  - C. Schedule visits
    1. Look, listen and ask questions in **all** classrooms
  
- II. Questions to ask director's and /or home care providers:
  - A. Are you aware of national quality standards?
  - B. Are you licensed by the state?
  - C. What is your philosophy on early childhood education?
  - D. May I have a copy of your policies and /or Parent Handbook?
  - E. What is your policy if children are sick?
  - F. Is there an orientation for new families?
  - G. Do you and /or your staff have opportunities for training?
  - H. How do you handle transitions (e.g. from change in classrooms, change in activities, etc.)?
  - I. What is your policy on discipline?
  
- III. When observing look for 5 key indicators:
  - A. A positive and happy learning environment
  - B. Ratio of adults to children
  - C. Trained and supported personnel
  - D. Developmentally appropriate
  - E. Parents are partners with childcare providers
  
- III. Once in childcare what should be expected of me as a parent?
  - A. Be sure to inform childcare providers of any changes concerning your child (condition, behavioral plan, family life, school life, etc.)
  - B. Facilitate partnerships between all parties who are part of your child's life (teachers, church, bus drivers, friends, etc.)