



Multnomah Parent Action Committee

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Identifying Quality Child Care — *Look, Listen and Ask**

- Are families and children welcomed, and are children greeted in a loving, respected way?
- Is the overall atmosphere bright, cheerful and child-focused, without being overwhelming?
- Do the child care staff **really listen** to you, and see your child and every child as a unique and special individual?
- Are the caregivers and teaching practices responsive to differences in children's abilities, interests and experiences?
- Are the majority of planned developmental activities individualized or in small groups?
- Are child care personnel willing to work with you and develop individual goals and plans to achieve them?
- Does the program accept children who are not yet walking or toilet-trained?
- Are caregivers trained and experienced in CPR, first aid, early childhood education and special needs?
- Are therapeutic services such as OT, PT and Speech Therapy provided on site, if possible?
- Are daily, weekly, monthly and special event schedules shared with families?
- Do child care personnel perform child and family advocacy functions for you if necessary?
- Is communication open between staff and parents? Are caregivers always ready to respond?
- Is the facility safe, secure and physically accessible (i.e., ramps, outside play area, bathrooms)?
- Is the program licensed and/or accredited?
- Are learning materials and toys sufficient, safe, clean and within reach of all children?
- Are the sounds of children predominantly happy? Does it appear the children and adults enjoy being together?
- Is there a daily balance of active and quiet activities? Are they right for each ability and age level?
- Do learning materials, books and pictures reflect diversity, including children with special needs?

****Identifying High-Quality in Child Care: Look, Listen, and Ask*** from the Child Care Aware® publication ***Choosing High-Quality Child Care for a Child With Special Needs*** was re-printed with permission from Child Care Aware®, a program of the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. For more information about Child Care Aware® or additional resources for locating high-quality child care, go to www.childcareaware.org or call Toll Free 1-800-424-2246 or TTY: 1-866-278-9428.

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