

3. LISTEN carefully. Do the children sound happy? Do caregivers speak in cheerful and patient tones? Do the children play well with each other and with the caregivers?

✓ *Too much noise may mean a lack of control; too much quiet may mean not enough activity.*

4. COUNT people. Count the children and the number of adults caring for them. In general, there should be at least one adult for every 6-10 children, depending on the children's ages. There should be at least one adult caring for every 3-4 infants and toddlers.

✓ *Children learn better when they get personal attention.*

5. CHECK references. Talk to parents who have used the center or home. What do they like and dislike about the provider? What kind of feedback do they receive on their child's activities? How long have they been using this provider? What would they change about the center or home if they could?

✓ *Trained providers know what is appropriate for children at different ages.*

Selecting child care is an important decision. The quality of care can make a big difference in how well your child learns and grows and how safe he or she is.

Call the Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association's Referral Service at 612.341.2066 for more help finding or paying for child care.

Talk, read and write with your child every day. School success begins at birth.

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