



## Child Care Resource & Referral Of Washington County

### Steps to Finding Child Care

1. Review your list of child care providers from Child Care Resource & Referral.
2. Call providers and interview them over the phone.
3. Set up a time for a site visit.
4. Call references.
5. Call Child Care Division for licensing and compliance history 1-800-556-6616 or go online at [www.ChildCareInOregon.org](http://www.ChildCareInOregon.org).

#### Telephone Interview

Name and telephone number of provider:



- Ask the child care provider if s/he is regulated by the Child Care Division.
  - Ask how many children are in care and what their ages are.
  - Ask what hours and days of the week the child care is open to see if it fits your schedule.
  - Ask if the child care site is closed for vacation or holidays.
  - Find out what the fees would be for each of your children who need care.
  - Ask if there are late fees if you pick your child up late.
  - Ask what the basic routine is for the children during each day.
  - Ask what other adults are working with the children or have access to the children.
  - Find out what kind of training or experience the caregiver or staff has had.
- Ask if you can get a list of references.

#### A Provider May Ask You

- How did you hear about our program?
  - What is your name and phone number?
  - What is the age of your child?
  - What hours and days do you need care?
  - What experiences has your child had in child care? (Occasional babysitter, nanny, family child care, center care)
  - Describe your child's temperament.
  - Are there any medical conditions or allergies?
- When would you like to visit?  
Do you have any references? (name and phone)

If you have any questions or would like additional resources, call the  
**Child Care Resource & Referral of Washington County at 971-223-6100 or 1-800-624-9516.**

## **Things to Look for and Ask About When Visiting a Child Care Site**

(If possible, take your child with you to the site visit.)

### **General**

- Find out why they are a child care provider.
- Ask what they like the most about child care.
- Ask what they like least about child care.
- Ask how long they have been doing child care.

### **Safety**

- Look for working smoke detectors.
- Look for capped electrical outlets.
- Check to see if stairs are gated.
- See if the diaper area is clean and sanitized.
- Ask what the plan is for fire or emergency situations.
- Ask what the policy is for sick children.
- If children are transported, ask if the provider has a current driver's license and proof of insurance.
- Look to see if there are car seats/seat belts for all children.
- Ask what method is in place for identification of children (name tags and a roster) when going on field trips.
- Ask if they carry medical emergency release forms during activities off the premises.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Ask about the naptime routine.
- Ask about the policy for children who do not sleep during naptime.
- Ask if your child can bring a comfort item or toys from home.
- Ask about bringing extra clothing for messy projects and/or accidents.

### **Reflect after the visit:**

#### **Go with your "gut" feeling about the provider.**

Did you and your child feel welcome?

How did the provider react to your child and you?

How did the provider interact with the children in his/her care?

How did the children interact with the child care provider?

Will you feel comfortable leaving your child?

### **Policies**

- Ask for a copy of the contract and written policies.
- Ask about how much time the children watch television, videos or play computer games.
- Ask how the provider handles toileting accidents.
- Find out if the provider has a back-up when s/he is sick or on vacation.
- Ask about activities for the children.
- Ask how the provider disciplines the children.
- Ask how children that have aggressive behavior such as hitting or biting are handled.
- Ask for a list of references.

### **For In-Home Care**

- Look for fireplace and heaters screened off from the children to prevent burns.
- See if hazardous and poisonous compounds are in a locked cabinet.
- Ask if there are there guns in the home and, if so, where they are kept.
- Find out who else lives in the home or frequently visits the home.
- Find out if they participate in a USDA Food Program.

### **For Center Care**

- Ask what the turnover rate is for personnel and how long the staff in your child's room has been there.
- Find out who the primary caregiver is in the room where your child will be. See if you can meet the teacher.
- Ask how adults coming into the center are screened.
- Ask what the procedure is for picking up your child.