



Licensed Child Development Home Checklist

If you need to find care for your child, one possibility is a licensed Child Development Home (CDH). CDH caregivers:

- Have to be licensed if they provide care to at least one unrelated child but no more than six children, including the caregiver's own children; and¹
- Provide care in their home.

Licensed CDH caregivers are much more than babysitters. CDHs offer a safe, learning environment that supports children's development, education, and growth. Through various indoor and outdoor activities and learning opportunities, CDHs promote children's social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development. For example, through positive and nurturing interactions with caregiver(s) children's emotional development is supported. While reading, playing, arts, and other activities support their social, intellectual, and physical development.

Some parents are also more comfortable with CDHs because they offer a home-like style type of care. In addition, since care is provided in the caregiver's home they may offer a more flexible schedule, which may not be available at some Child Development Centers. CDHs may also allow the parent-caregiver relationship to be less formal and more personal.

When choosing a licensed CDH, it is important to find a setting you are comfortable with and a caregiver who shares your attitudes and values about children. Using this checklist, plan to visit the CDH to talk and observe the caregiver with the children.

Sources:

- *Choosing Child Care* (n.d.), by Child Care Aware, available at <http://childcareaware.org/families/choosing-quality-child-care/>.
- *Is This the Right Place for My Child? 38 Research-Based Indicators of High-Quality Child Care* (2008), by the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA), available at <http://ccapub.childcareaware.org/docs/pubs/121e.pdf>.
- *Development Facility Licensing Requirements* (April 27, 2007), by the District of Columbia Department of Health and District of Columbia Department of Human Services, available at http://osse.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/osse/publication/attachments/611_Licensing_Regulations_29_D_CMR_3.pdf.

¹ Caregivers can care for their own children, if they are under the age of four; however, they count towards the maximum number of children that can be care in a CDH setting.

Caregiver Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number(s): _____

Hours of operation: _____

Fees charged: _____

License number and type: _____

License capacity for each age category of children: _____

Checklist

Questions about the Physical Facility, Health and Safety:

Required by the District		
Is the program's license current? (If it is not displayed, ask the caregiver to show you the license.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the program have a current fire safety inspection certificate? (If it is not displayed, ask the caregiver to show you the certificate.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are all cleaning and sanitation supplies, toxic substances (e.g., paint, poisons), or other items bearing warning labels safely stored and out of the reach of children?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the program ensure that no person (caregiver, staff, residents, and visitors) smokes or uses tobacco products when one or more children are in care?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are all appliances, sharp utensils, and other dangerous devices kept out of the reach of children at all times?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the outdoor play area visible to the caregiver or other approved staff at all times when in use by one or more children?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the outdoor play area enclosed with a fence or natural barriers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are lawn mowers, hedge clippers, shears, and other similar items stored under lock when children are present?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are practice evacuation drills conducted at least every two months?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Your Initial Reaction and Assessment		
Is the program child-proofed? For example, electrical outlets are covered with safety caps, medicines are locked, etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Do equipment, toys, and materials (indoor and outdoor) appear to be in good condition and age appropriate?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If there is playground equipment, is it placed on sand, mulch, or rubber matting?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the program have first aid supplies and kits?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is there a plan in place to use when a child is injured or becomes ill?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the program (indoor and outdoor) feel safe?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Questions about Caregiver Competencies, Supervision, and Discipline:

Required by the District		
Has the CDH caregiver completed the child development specialized training?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Has the CDH caregiver completed the precautions against Sudden Infant Death Syndrome specialized training?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Has the CDH caregiver completed certification in Pediatric First Aid and CPR?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the program have a written discipline policy with specifics of how discipline will be used?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are children supervised during all periods of outdoor play?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Your Initial Reaction and Assessment		
Are children supervised at all times, including times when they are sleeping?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the caregiver spend time with children and provide individual attention to each child? For example, the caregiver does not ignore children or leave them alone for long periods of time?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the caregiver warm, affectionate, and welcoming with children? For example, by playing, smiling, cuddling, and speaking pleasantly?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Do caregivers talk with children and/or engage in conversation during the day?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are caregivers fair, positive, clear, and consistent when they discipline?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Questions about the Program Activities and Materials:

Required by the District		
Does the program have a plan of activities that include active and quiet learning through play, indoor and outdoor activities, activities that motivate and stimulate all areas of children’s development (e.g., cognitive, physical, social, emotional and creative), and activities that are both structured and unstructured, and both caregiver-directed and child-initiated?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the plan of activities provide periods of rest, including specific designated times for rest each day?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Specific to CDHs that provides out-of-school-time care to school-age children: Does the program have a plan of supervised activities that allow for active play (e.g., run, climb, or jump), choice of play, creative activities, individual/group work, homework time, and social interaction and relationship development with peers and caregivers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Your Initial Reaction and Assessment		
Are there areas for different types of play, such as art, books, puzzles, etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there enough toys/materials so children can play without having to wait more than a few seconds?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are some toys/materials available at all times?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Do caregivers read to children or encourage children to read, if they can read?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the space organized, easy to use, child friendly and appealing to children?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the environment welcoming and culturally representative? For example, posters, signs, books available in different languages?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Questions about Menus, Meals, and Service:

Required by the District		
Are menus, including snacks, planned and posted?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are infants not placed in cribs with a bottle for feeding, nor are bottles propped to feed them?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are prepared bottles and infant food refrigerated immediately upon its arrival?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is infant food served as instructed by parents, guardians, or licensed health care practitioner?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Your Initial Reaction and Assessment		
Based on posted menus, are foods and beverages served to children nutritious? (If menus are not posted, ask caregiver to show you planned menus.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the area where food is stored and/or prepared clean?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is hand-washing (before/after eating, after using the bathroom, etc.) modeled by caregiver and taught to children?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Your Overall Thoughts

1. How do you feel about this program?
2. How would your child feel about this place?
3. Do you feel comfortable with the caregiver and could you share concerns about your child with him/her?
4. Does the program feel warm, cheerful, and inviting?

Above all, trust your own judgment and feelings about a program. You know your child best and can tell which program will be right for your family.