

# Infant Program Checklist

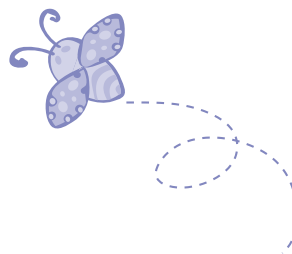


Your baby is precious. Choosing a program that's right for him—and for your family—is one of the most important decisions a new parent can make. To make the process less overwhelming, we've created a checklist to guide you along. Read through to find advice from child development experts and new and expecting parents about what to look for, what to ask, and how to make the best decision.

## Health and Safety

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- ☐ Will each baby have his own crib or share with other children?
- ☐ How is the spread of germs prevented?
- ☐ Is the center professionally cleaned daily?
- ☐ How are toys cleaned after they have been in a child's mouth?
- ☐ Can you nurse your baby? Can you bring in breast milk? Can it be frozen? How would breast milk and formula be labeled?
- ☐ Is there an open door policy? Can a parent call or visit any time she wants?
- ☐ What is the illness policy?
- ☐ Will your baby get tummy time each day?
- ☐ Can all environments be easily supervised by teachers?
- ☐ What are the security and emergency procedures? Are the evacuation routes established, posted, and practiced regularly?
- ☐ Do teachers have the required training and certification in CPR, first aid, and infection control?



## Regular Communication

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- ☐ Will you receive daily communication about your child's day?
- ☐ How will the center make sure you don't miss any of your baby's milestones?

## Great Environments for Babies

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- ☐ Does the center use highchairs, exersaucers, or swings?
- ☐ Do babies spend time outdoors?
- ☐ Is there a variety of materials and toys—including natural and everyday home materials—for children of all levels to explore?
- ☐ Do the rooms sound and smell pleasant?

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## Loving and Professional Staff

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- ☐ Will your child have a consistent group of primary teachers? How long have they been at the center?
- ☐ Do teachers interact with children in caring, respectful, and positive ways? Do you see one-to-one conversation with eye contact?
- ☐ How will your child's individual needs be met with the number of children in the room?



## Programs to Learn and Thrive

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- ☐ Is there a curriculum for babies? Ask to see an example of activities planned.
- ☐ What resources are offered to parents?
- ☐ Are there opportunities for parents to meet together and be involved as a group?
- ☐ Is the program accredited by or working toward accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)?
- ☐ Are there enrichments for infants such as storytellers, musicians, sign language, etc.?
- ☐ Is the daily schedule adjusted according to each baby's needs or are all babies on the same schedule?
- ☐ Is there a process for preparing parents and children for their first day at the center?

