

Checklist:

- ☼ Is it clean and safe.
- ☼ Are the materials age appropriate.
- ☼ Are the staff qualified.
- ☼ Is there a fenced in play area outside.
- ☼ Does a caregiver have First Aid Training and is a First Aid Kit available.
- ☼ How do they discipline children.
- ☼ What are the policies for sick kids.
- ☼ How many other children attend.
- ☼ Is a menu posted for each day.
- ☼ Do they follow Canada's Food Guide.
- ☼ Do they accommodate allergies/special needs.
- ☼ Are parents welcome to drop in.
- ☼ Are there a variety of activities available.
- ☼ Do they follow a time schedule.
- ☼ Where do the kids sleep or nap.
- ☼ How do they handle medications.
- ☼ Do they toilet train.
- ☼ What happens if the teacher is sick.
- ☼ What holidays do they observe.
- ☼ Is there a charge for late pick up.
- ☼ Do they give tax receipts.
- ☼ What is the maximum number of children.
- ☼ Are there any pets.
- ☼ Do they go out for walks.
- ☼ Can I start gradually or stay the first day.
- ☼ How do they get time for a staff lunch.
- ☼ Are the children constantly supervised.
- ☼ What is their philosophy with working with kids and families.
- ☼ Do they do field trips/how do they transport



Safety Check:

- ☼ Safety caps on electrical wall outlets
- ☼ Windows, screens and doors that can be locked
- ☼ Stairways with gates and handrails
- ☼ Covers on exposed pipes and radiators
- ☼ Smoke detectors
- ☼ Emergency evacuation plan
- ☼ Monthly fire drills done
- ☼ No electrical appliances within reach
- ☼ Drugs, medicine and cleaners locked up
- ☼ Emergency numbers posted at phone
- ☼ No broken toys or equipment
- ☼ No lock on bathroom door
- ☼ No balcony accessible
- ☼ Thermostat on water heater turned below 54°C
- ☼ No glassware
- ☼ No overloaded extension cords or wall plugs
- ☼ No toxic plants
- ☼ No plastic bags
- ☼ No dangling strings from blinds or curtains
- ☼ Safety locks on all accessible cupboards
- ☼ Fire extinguishers available



Ontario

Early Years

Choosing Quality Childcare



Cambridge Family Early Years Centre



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**Cambridge
Family Early
Years Centre**

Regulations:

In Ontario, child care is governed by provincial legislation called the **Day Nurseries Act**. According to the Act, anyone providing care regularly for more than five children, who are not of common parentage, must be licensed under the Act. If care is provided on a premises for five or fewer children, it is not required to be licensed.

Questions for You:



How many hours each day, and days each week, will you need child care?

Does your child have any special needs that the child care has to meet?

Do you need to find a child care program near your home, work or school?

Call each of the child care places you are considering and speak to the person in charge. When you call, have a list of questions ready to ask the child care provider.

When you've decided what child care programs you want to visit, find out as much as you can about what happens there day to day.

If you need financial help you can contact Child Care Subsidy at 519-883-2200

Licensed Care

Two kinds of licensed child care services exist in Ontario.

Centre-based programs are licensed for groups of children who may range in age from infancy to twelve years. Each centre is licensed to care for a specific number of children based on physical space and allowable group sizes. The **Day Nurseries Act** sets out minimum acceptable standards. Licensed centres are inspected to ensure compliance with these standards including staff requirements.

The second type of licensed care, **home-based child care**, is provided in the home of a caregiver who is registered and approved by a licensed home child care agency. The agency administers the service and supervises the home caregiver. Qualified staff from the home child care agency, with training in early childhood education, routinely inspects the homes of caregivers who are registered with the agency. This monitoring and the licensing process ensures that the requirements of the Day Nurseries Act are being met.

These child care search tools are designed to provide parents with information about licensed child care in Ontario.

www.ontario.ca/ONT/portal51/licensedchildcare



www.ccnds.on.ca

www.parentguide.ca

Unlicensed Care

Every community also has independent caregivers who provide **home-based** services "independently". That is, they are not required to be licensed. Parents often access these caregivers through newspaper advertisements, community bulletin boards, Early Years Centres, local schools, word of mouth or by referral from friends or relatives.

In addition to home-based child care, parents often access other services for their children which meet some of their child care needs. These services are not governed by the **Day Nurseries Act** and can include: recreation programs, clubs and after-school activities, nanny services, care in your home, and summer camps.

Daycare Ages/Ratios

Infant: 3 to 18 mths ratio is 3 infants to one staff

Toddler: 18 mths to 2.5 years ratio is 5 to one staff

Preschooler: 2.5 to 6 yrs old ratio is 8 to one staff

School Age: 6 to 12 yrs old ratio is 12 to one staff

